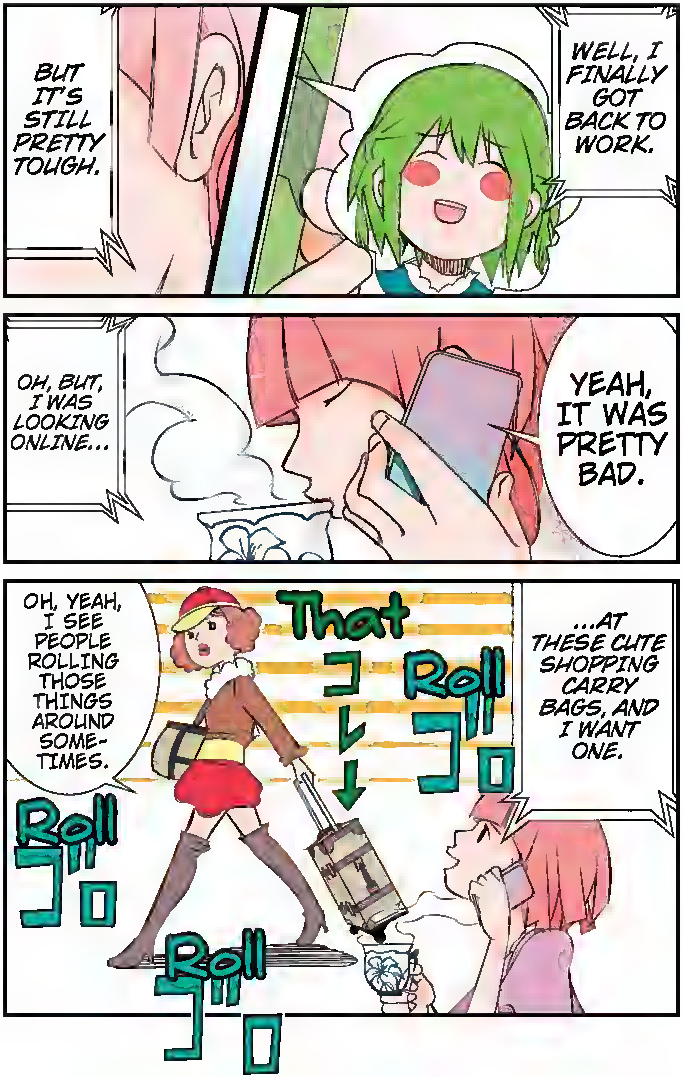
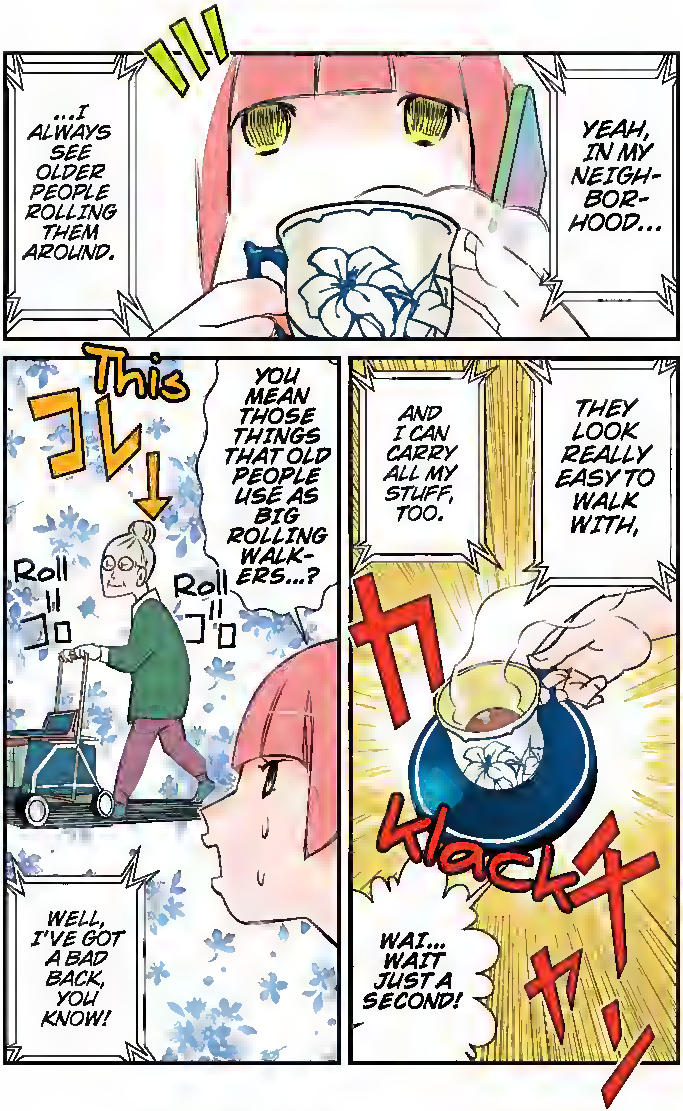
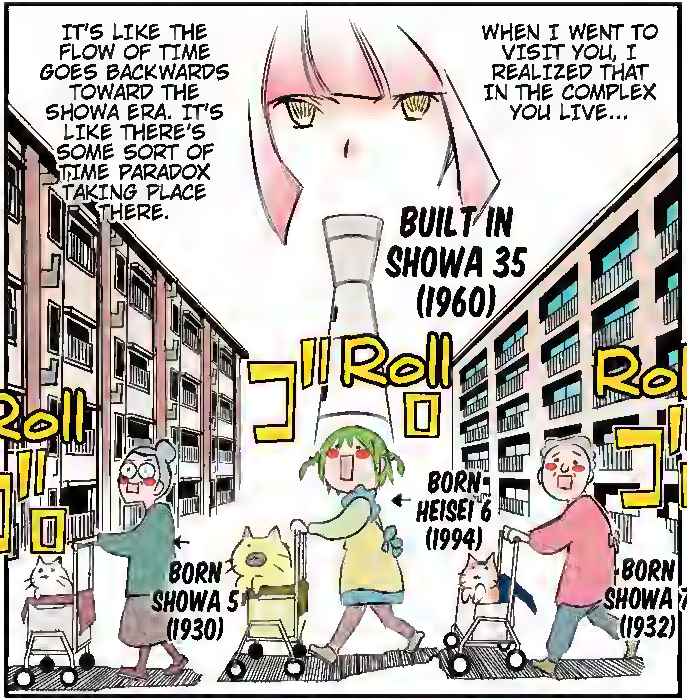
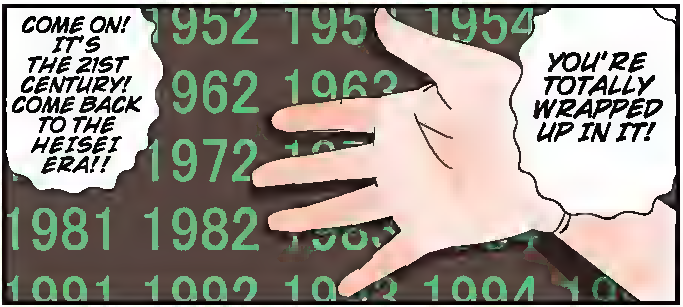
Translation by Abby Lehrke
Adaptation by Alexandra Swanson
YKS SERVICES LLC / SKY JAPAN, Inc


WELL, I FINALLY GOT BACK TO WORK.
BUT IT'S STILL PRETTY TOUGH.
YEAH, IT WAS PRETTY BAD.
OH, BUT, I WAS LOOKING ONLINE...
...AT THESE CUTE SHOPPING CARRY BAGS, AND I WANT ONE.
That
Roll
Roll
Roll
OH, YEAH, I SEE PEOPLE ROLLING THOSE THINGS AROUND SOME-TIMES.


...I ALWAYS SEE OLDER PEOPLE ROLLING THEM AROUND.
YEAH, IN MY NEIGH-BOR-HOOD...
This
コレ
Roll
Roll
YOU MEAN THOSE THINGS THAT OLD PEOPLE USE AS BIG ROLLING WALK-ERS...?
WELL, I'VE GOT A BAD BACK, YOU KNOW!
THEY LOOK REALLY EASY TO WALK WITH,
AND I CAN CARRY ALL MY STUFF, TOO.
カ
klack
チャ
WAI... WAIT JUST A SECOND!

...I HAVE TO CARRY HIM AROUND TOO, DON'T I? SO IT HAS TO BE ABLE TO CARRY AT LEAST 30 KILO-GRAMS.
WELL, I WAS JUST LOOKING AT THE ONES WITH HIGH REVIEWS... I MEAN, THE CAT...
WELL, IT'S DANGEROUS TO LET HIM RIDE IN THE BASKET OF MY BIKE, ISN'T IT?
WHY THE HECK WOULD YOU EVER NEED TO CARRY YOUR CAT AROUND?!
KOTORI, AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF BECOMING AN OLD LADY BEFORE YOUR TIME?

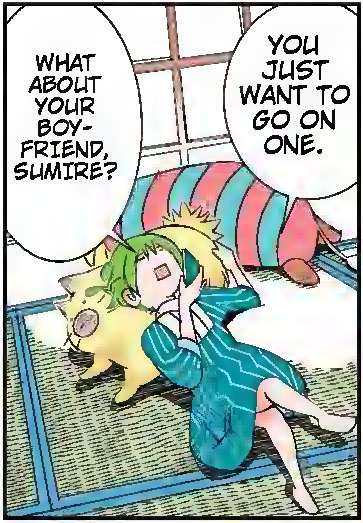

IT'S LIKE THE FLOW OF TIME GOES BACKWARDS TOWARD THE SHOWA ERA. IT'S LIKE THERE'S SOME SORT OF TIME PARADOX TAKING PLACE THERE.
WHEN I WENT TO VISIT YOU, I REALIZED THAT IN THE COMPLEX YOU LIVE...
BUILT IN SHOWA 35 (1960)
Roll
Roll
Roll
BORN SHOWA 5 (1930)
BORN HEISEI 6 (1994)
BORN SHOWA 7 (1932)


COME ON! IT'S THE 21ST CENTURY! COME BACK TO THE HEISEI ERA!!
YOU'RE TOTALLY WRAPPED UP IN IT!

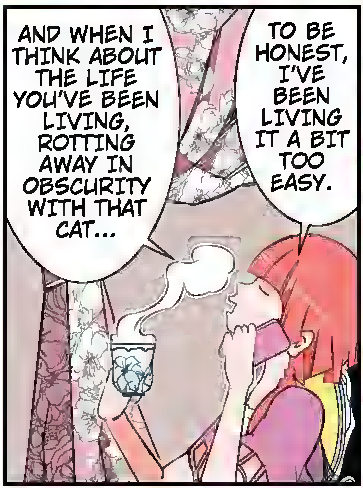
...DON'T YOU, SUMIRE?
AW, JEEZ, YOU REALLY LIKE TO TALK ABOUT WEIRD STUFF LIKE THAT...
Ahahaha
A GROUP DATE?!
YOU'RE GOING ON A GROUP DATE!

BACK WHEN WE WERE GIVING CONCERTS...
...YOU ALWAYS LOOKED SO PUT TOGETHER.
BUT NOW, YOU'RE JUST ROLLING AROUND ON THE TATAMI, HANGING ONTO THAT CAT, AREN'T YOU?
見えてる？
Can you see me?
WH... WHAT? HOW DID YOU KNOW?

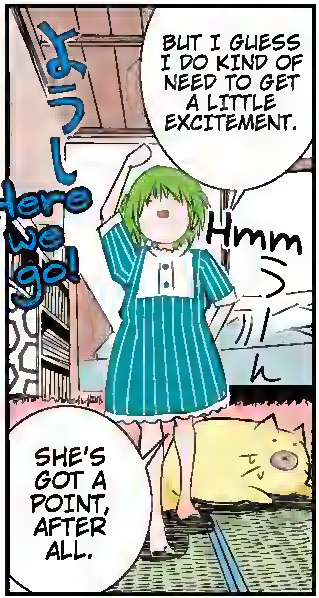
...THE EXCITE-MENT OF TALKING TO THE OPPOSITE SEX.
YOU NEED TO FEEL THAT ANXIETY YOU GET FROM BEING LOOKED AT...
...TO GET A HOTTER GUY TO FALL FOR YOU.
Better made-up eyes.
Thicker lips.
Better skin.
THE FEELING OF YOUR BEAUTY COMPET-ING...
...TO GET THE SENSE OF ACHIEVEMENT FROM FINALLY CATCHING THE PREY YOU WERE AFTER.
Oh, the last train has left!
あーん終電が
SIZING THEM UP, FIGURING OUT TACTICS, AND THEN SETTING TRAPS...
よーし
送ってあげる!!
I'll take you home!

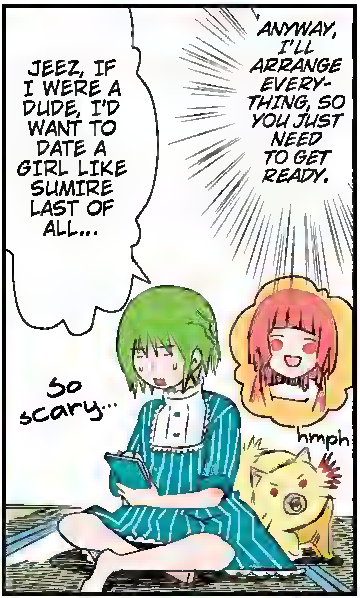

WHAT ABOUT YOUR BOY-FRIEND, SUMIRE?
YOU JUST WANT TO GO ON ONE.

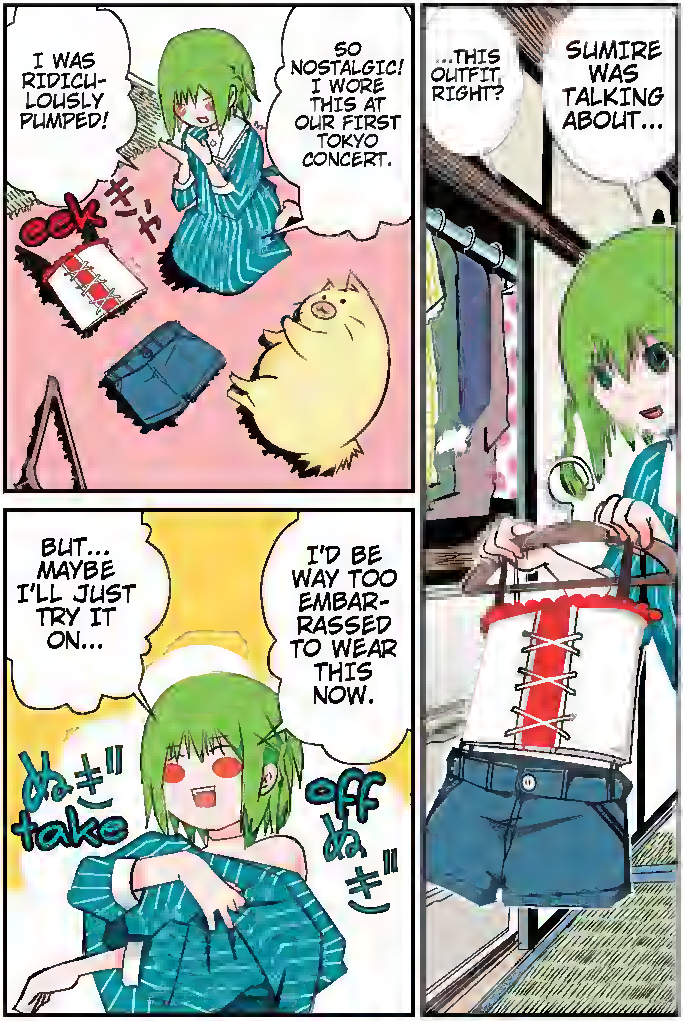
ENJOY YOUR SPIRIT!
THE ONLY WAY TO FEEL ALL OF THAT IS TO GO ON A GROUP DATE!
COME BACK TO THE WORLD OF THE YOUNG!

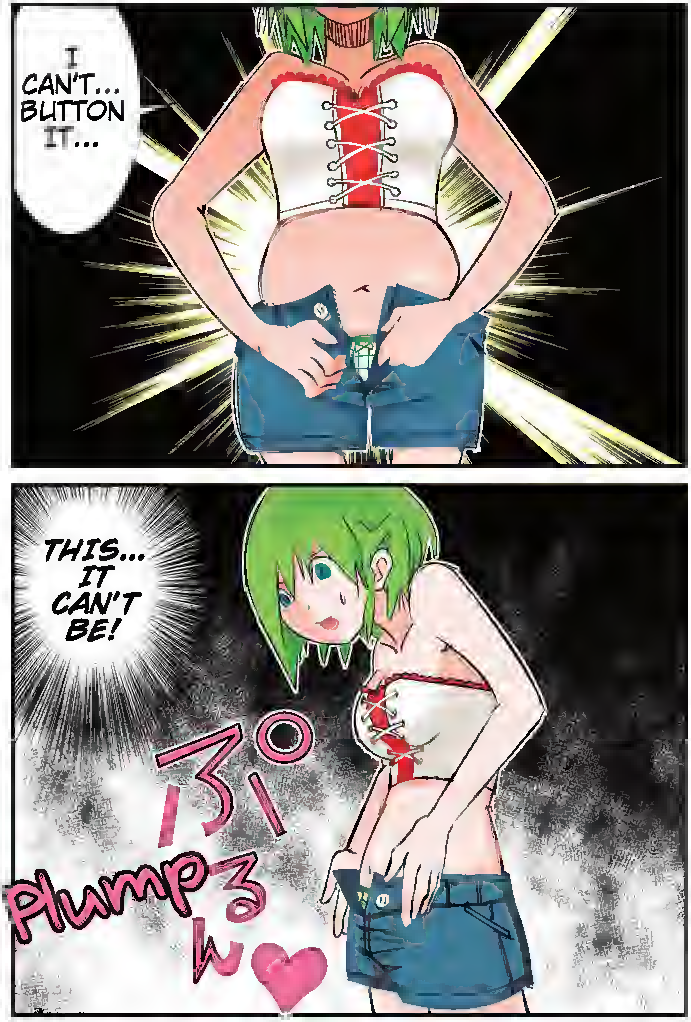

AND WHEN I THINK ABOUT THE LIFE YOU'VE BEEN LIVING, ROTTING AWAY IN OBSCURITY WITH THAT CAT...
TO BE HONEST, I'VE BEEN LIVING IT A BIT TOO EASY.

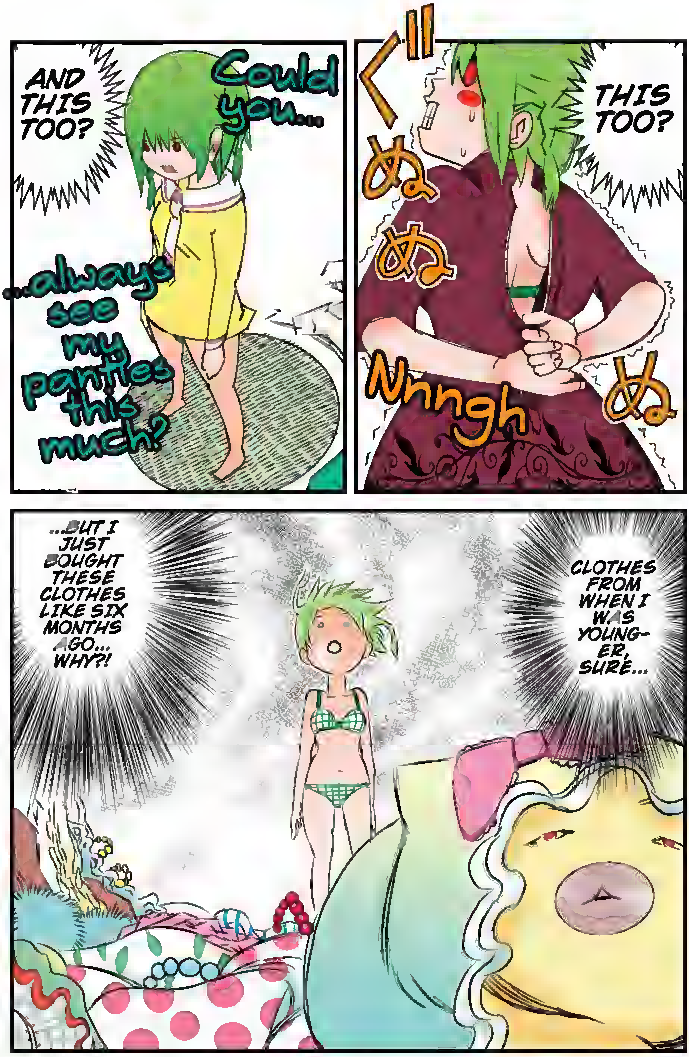
TEE HEE HEE
...IT MAKES ME WANT TO TRY TO WREAK A LITTLE HAVOC, YOU KNOW...

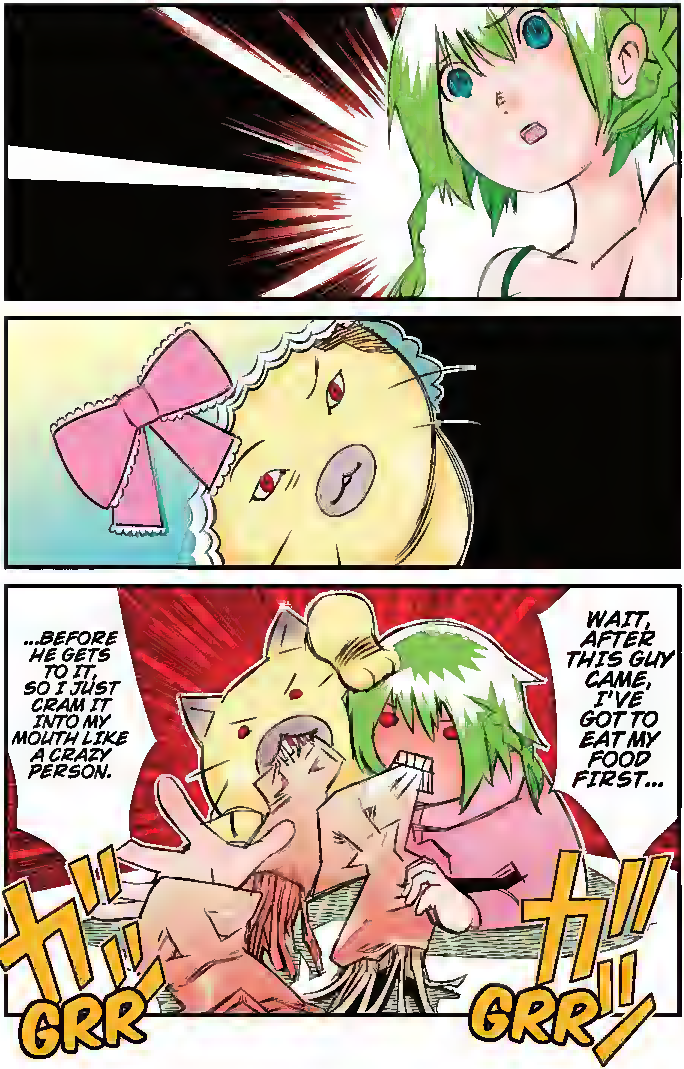

BUT I GUESS I DO KIND OF NEED TO GET A LITTLE EXCITEMENT.
Hmm
ようし
Here we go!
SHE'S GOT A POINT, AFTER ALL.

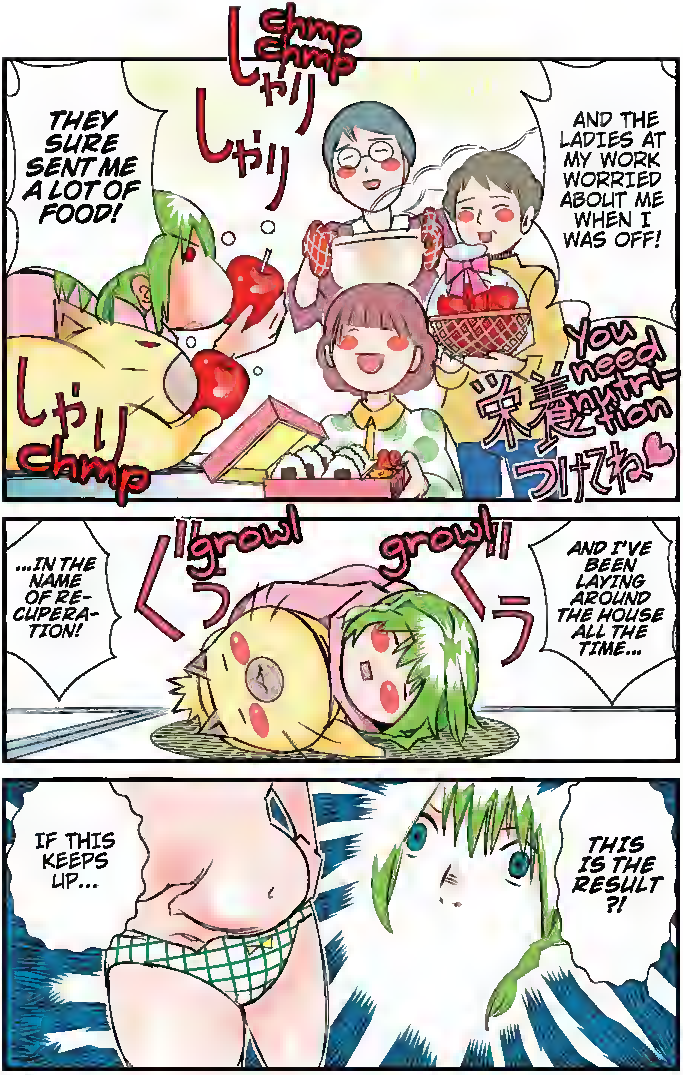

ANYWAY, I'LL ARRANGE EVERY-THING, SO YOU JUST NEED TO GET READY.
JEEZ, IF I WERE A DUDE, I'D WANT TO DATE A GIRL LIKE SUMIRE LAST OF ALL...
So scary...
hmph

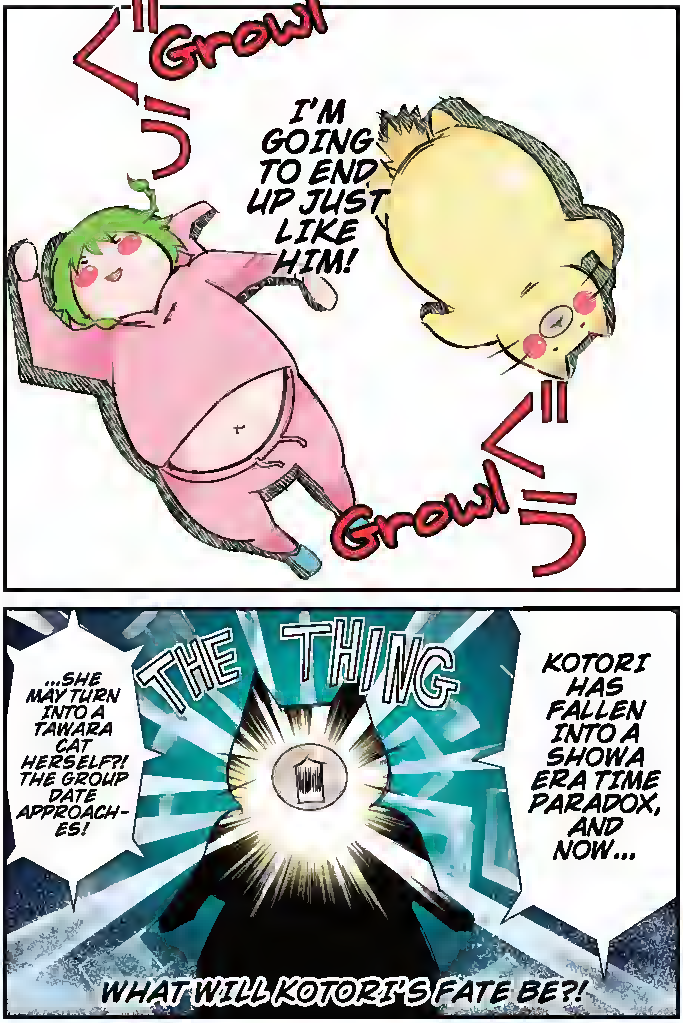

SUMIRE WAS TALKING ABOUT...
...THIS OUTFIT, RIGHT?
SO NOSTALGIC! I WORE THIS AT OUR FIRST TOKYO CONCERT.
I WAS RIDICU-LOUSLY PUMPED!
eek
キャ
I'D BE WAY TOO EMBAR-RASSED TO WEAR THIS NOW.
BUT... MAYBE I'LL JUST TRY IT ON...
ぬき
take
off
ぬき


I CAN'T... BUTTON IT...
THIS... IT CAN'T BE!
Plump
ぷるん


Could you...
...always see my panties this much?
AND THIS TOO?
くぬぬ
Nnngh
ぬ
THIS TOO?
CLOTHES FROM WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, SURE...
...BUT I JUST BOUGHT THESE CLOTHES LIKE SIX MONTHS AGO... WHY?!


WAIT, AFTER THIS GUY CAME, I'VE GOT TO EAT MY FOOD FIRST...
...BEFORE HE GETS TO IT, SO I JUST CRAM IT INTO MY MOUTH LIKE A CRAZY PERSON.
ガッ
GRR
ガッ
GRR


Chmp Chmp
しゃり しゃり
THEY SURE SENT ME A LOT OF FOOD!
AND THE LADIES AT MY WORK WORRIED ABOUT ME WHEN I WAS OFF!
You need nutrition つけてね♥
しゃり Chmp
...IN THE NAME OF RE-CUPERA-TION!
くぅ growl
growl くぅ
AND I'VE BEEN LAYING AROUND THE HOUSE ALL THE TIME...
IF THIS KEEPS UP...
THIS IS THE RESULT ?!


Growl
I'M GOING TO END UP JUST LIKE HIM!
Growl
THE THING
...SHE MAY TURN INTO A TAWARA CAT HERSELF?! THE GROUP DATE APPROACHES!
KOTORI HAS FALLEN INTO A SHOWA ERA TIME PARADOX, AND NOW...
WHAT WILL KOTORI'S FATE BE?!

THIS STORY IS FICTIONAL, AND COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO REAL PEOPLE, GROUPS, OR EVENTS.

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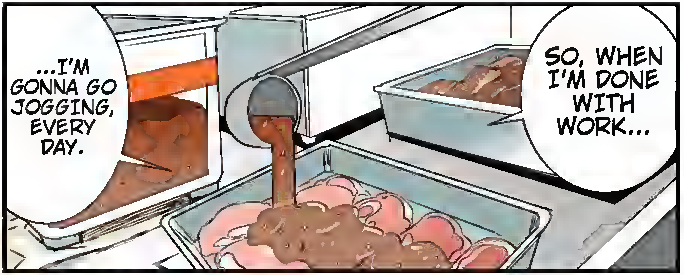
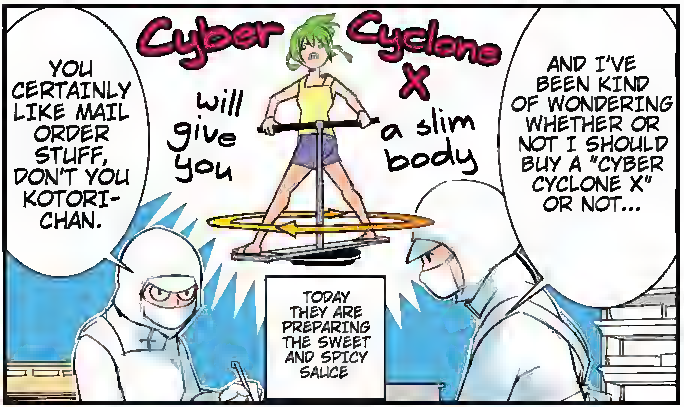
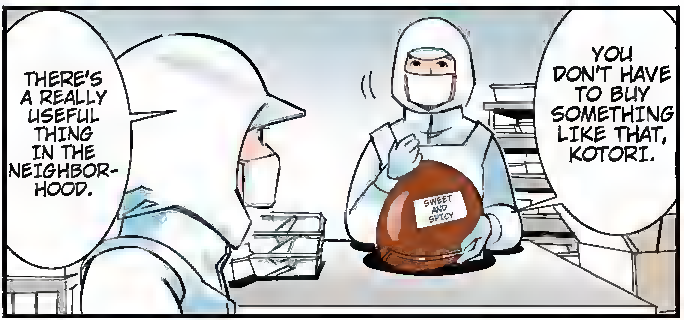
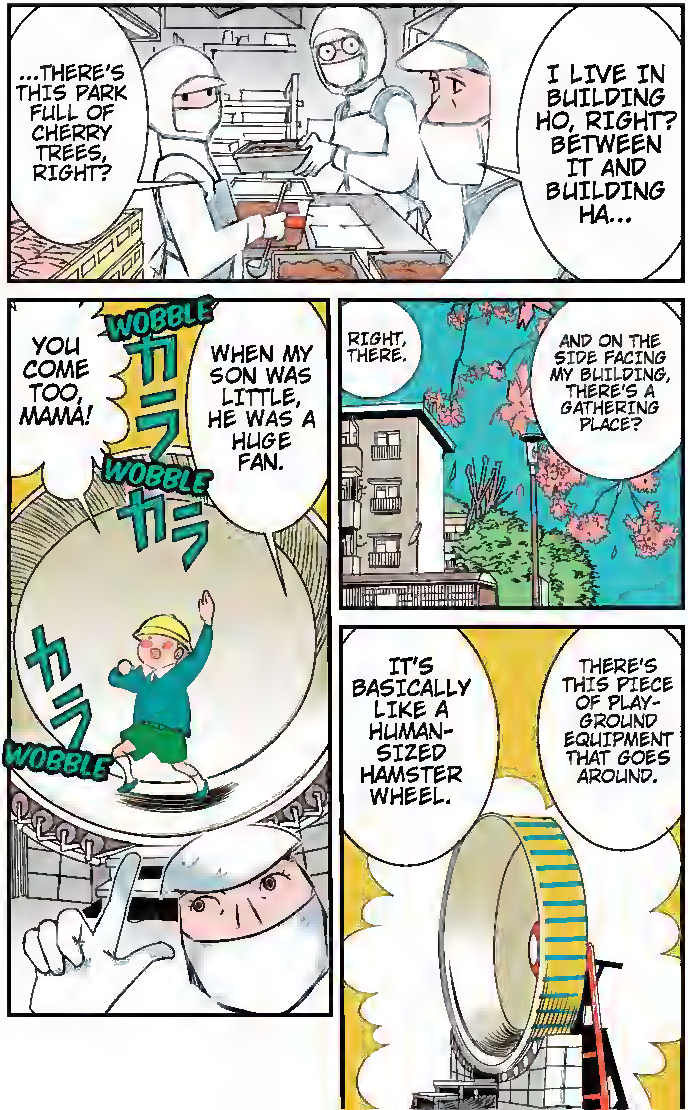
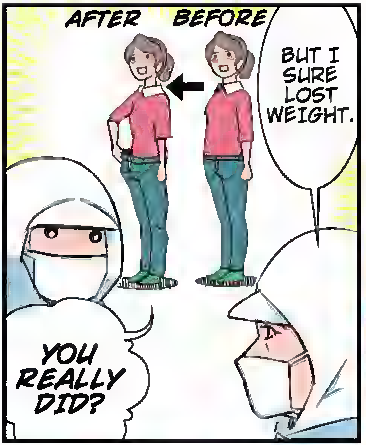

...I'M GONNA GO JOGGING, EVERY DAY.
SO, WHEN I'M DONE WITH WORK...

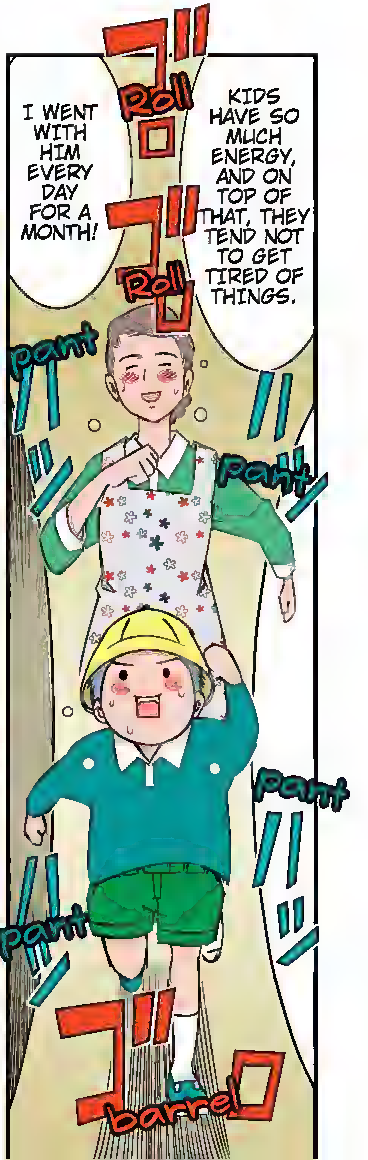

YOU CERTAINLY LIKE MAIL ORDER STUFF, DON'T YOU KOTORI-CHAN.
Cyber Cyclone X
will give you a slim body
AND I'VE BEEN KIND OF WONDERING WHETHER OR NOT I SHOULD BUY A "CYBER CYCLONE X" OR NOT...
TODAY THEY ARE PREPARING THE SWEET AND SPICY SAUCE


THERE'S A REALLY USEFUL THING IN THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BUY SOMETHING LIKE THAT, KOTORI.
SWEET AND SPICY

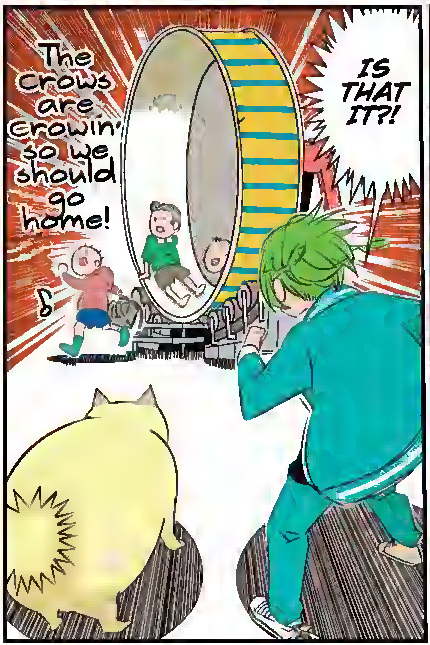

I LIVE IN BUILDING HO, RIGHT? BETWEEN IT AND BUILDING HA...
...THERE'S THIS PARK FULL OF CHERRY TREES, RIGHT?
AND ON THE SIDE FACING MY BUILDING, THERE'S A GATHERING PLACE?
RIGHT, THERE.
THERE'S THIS PIECE OF PLAY-GROUND EQUIPMENT THAT GOES AROUND.
IT'S BASICALLY LIKE A HUMAN-SIZED HAMSTER WHEEL.
WHEN MY SON WAS LITTLE, HE WAS A HUGE FAN.
YOU COME TOO, MAMA!
WOBBLE
カラ
WOBBLE
カラ
カラ
WOBBLE


AFTER
BEFORE
BUT I SURE LOST WEIGHT.
YOU REALLY DID?

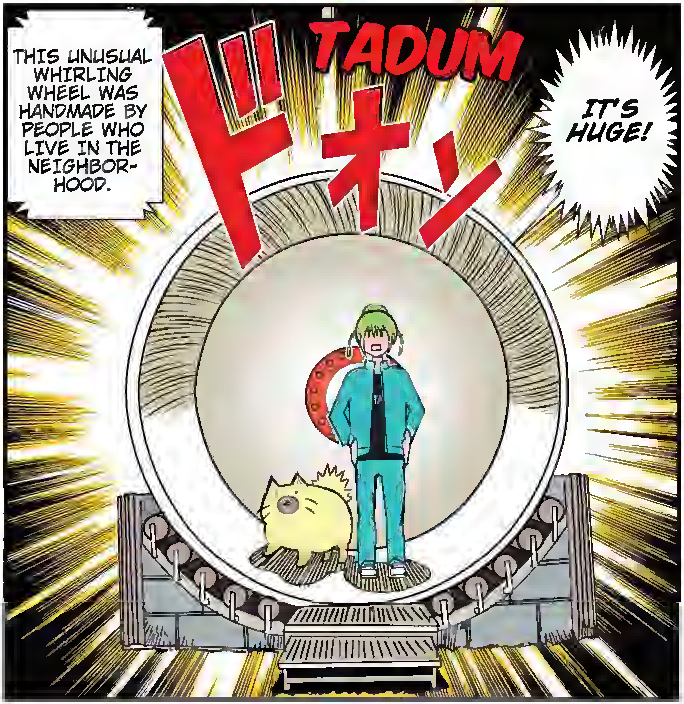
THE GROUP DATE IS SCHEDULED FOR ONE MONTH FROM NOW!
Kotori
ONE MONTH EXACTLY!

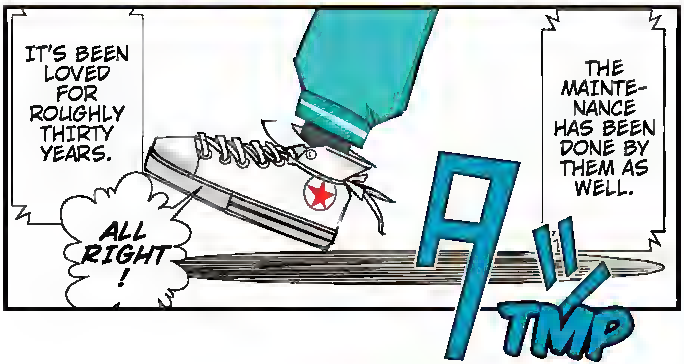

I WENT WITH HIM EVERY DAY FOR A MONTH!
KIDS HAVE SO MUCH ENERGY, AND ON TOP OF THAT, THEY TEND NOT TO GET TIRED OF THINGS.
Roll
Roll
pant
pant
pant
pant
barre!

HO AND HA BUILD-INGS...
THE PARK BE-TWEEN...


The crows are crowin' so we should go home!
♪
IS THAT IT?!

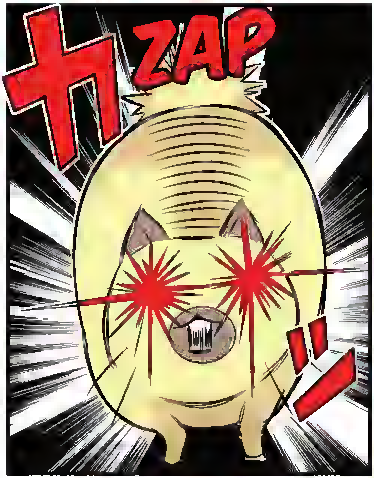
TMP

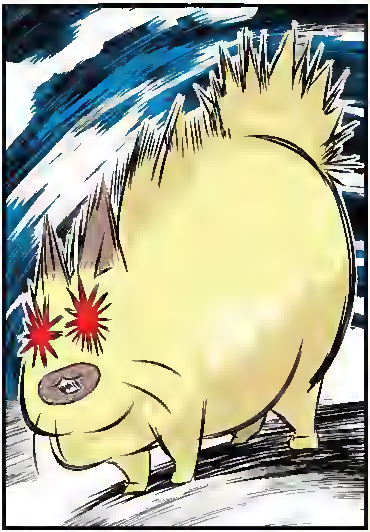

THIS UNUSUAL WHIRLING WHEEL WAS HANDMADE BY PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD.
TADUM
ドオン
IT'S HUGE!

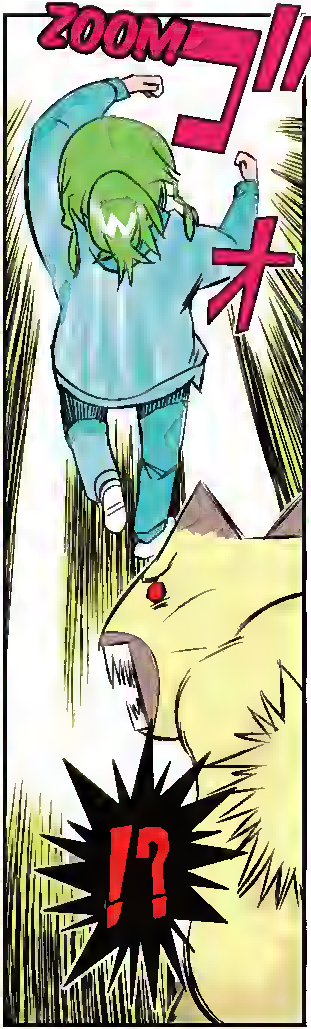

IT'S BEEN LOVED FOR ROUGHLY THIRTY YEARS.
ALL RIGHT!
THE MAINTE-NANCE HAS BEEN DONE BY THEM AS WELL.
TMP

...I REALLY COULD DO THIS EVERY DAY.
I THINK...
IT'S FUN!
OH!
Tmp Tmp Tmp
タッタッタッ
Roll Roll
コロコロ
タ
Tmp!!
Tmp
タッ!!

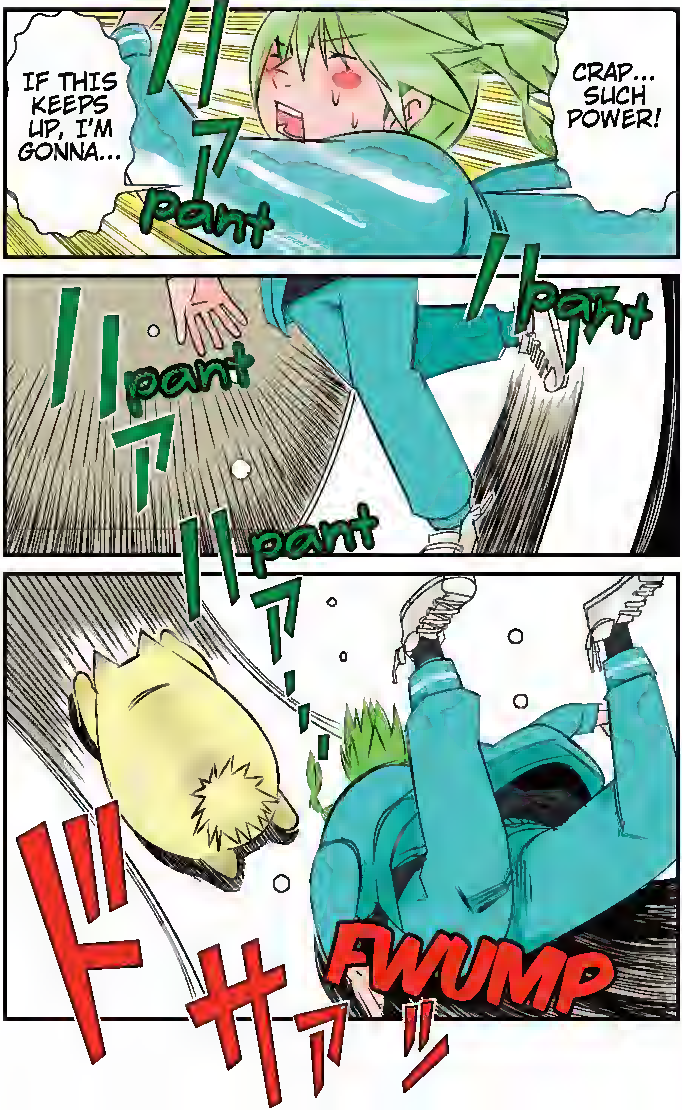
!?
Tmp
Tmp!!
...I'M LOSING TO THE CAT?!
Tmp!!
Tmp!!
DAMN! YOU'RE ALWAYS, ALWAYS ...
...LOOKING DOWN ON HUMANS!
Grrr!!
Growl

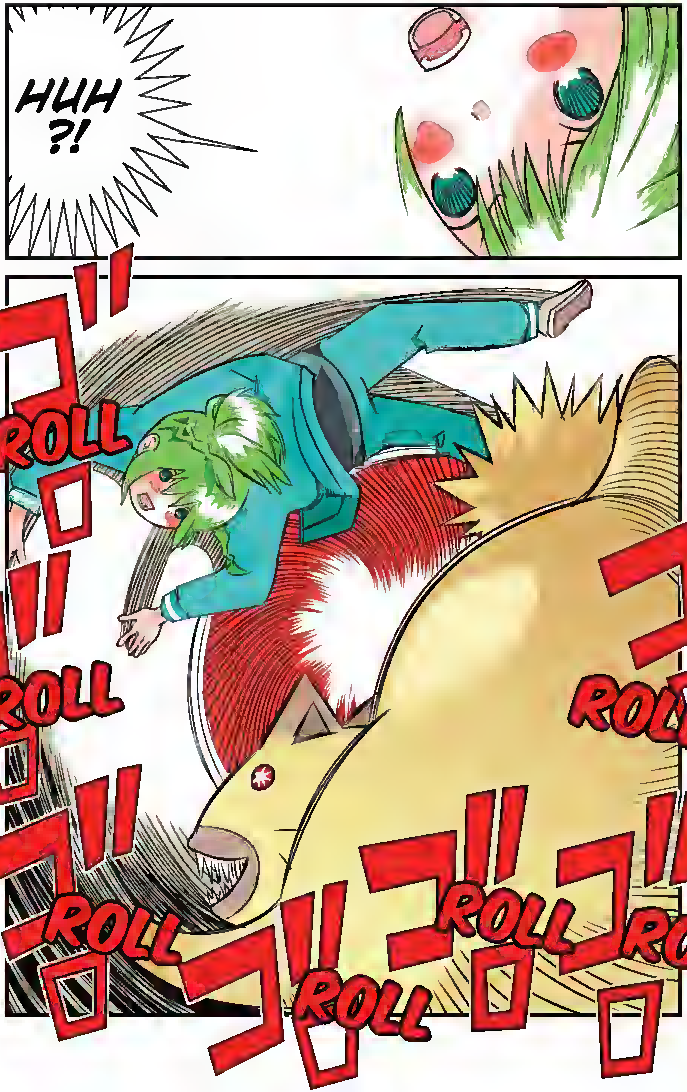

ZAP

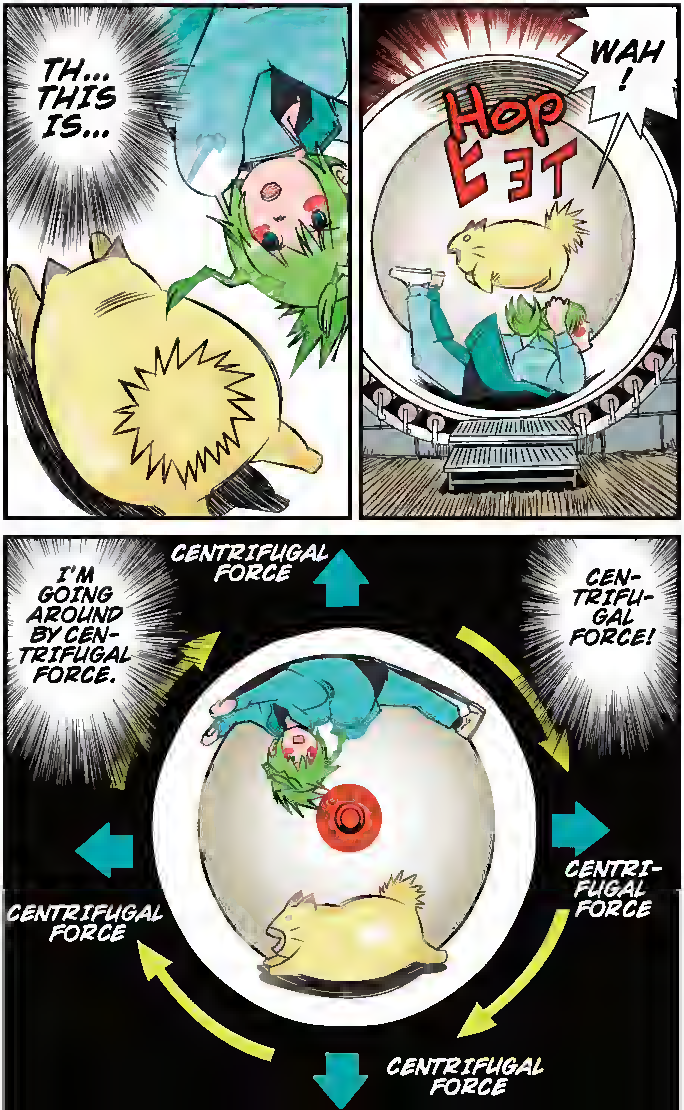


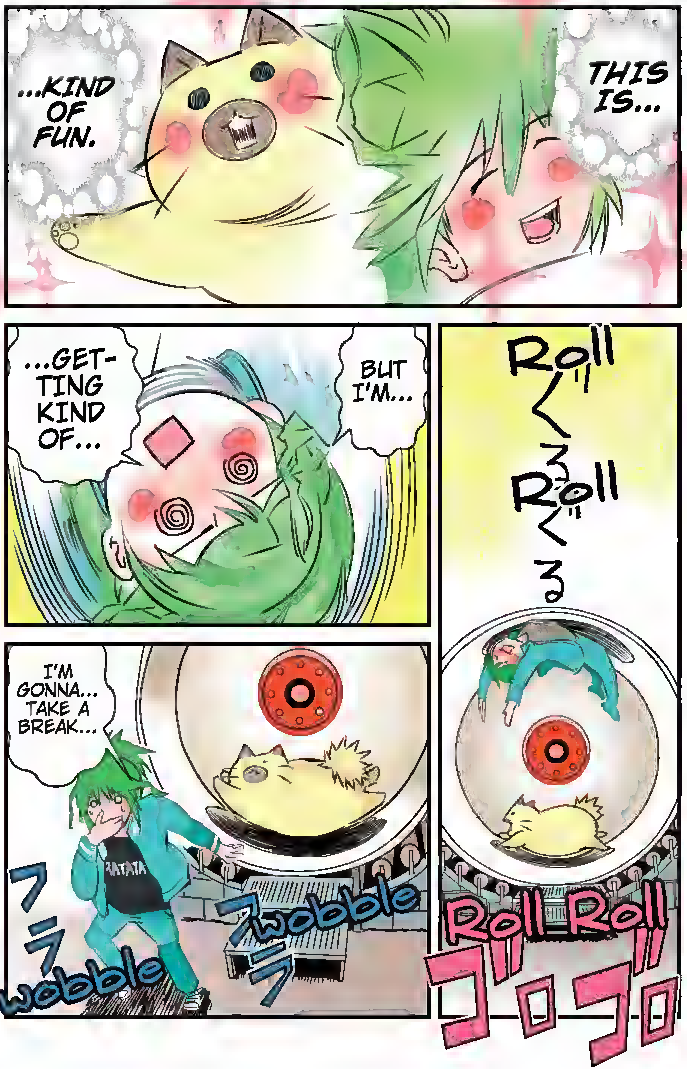

ZOOM
!?

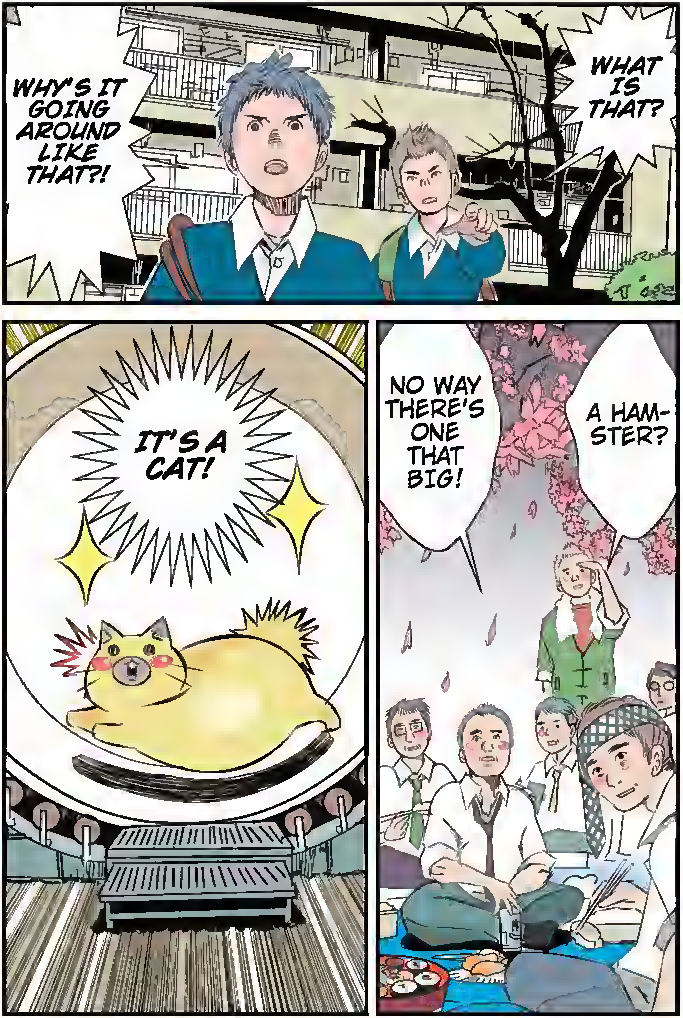
アニヤ
あBreoooooooooooo
ああああああああ
ゴロゴロ
ROLL ROLL
ゴロゴロ
ROLL ROLL

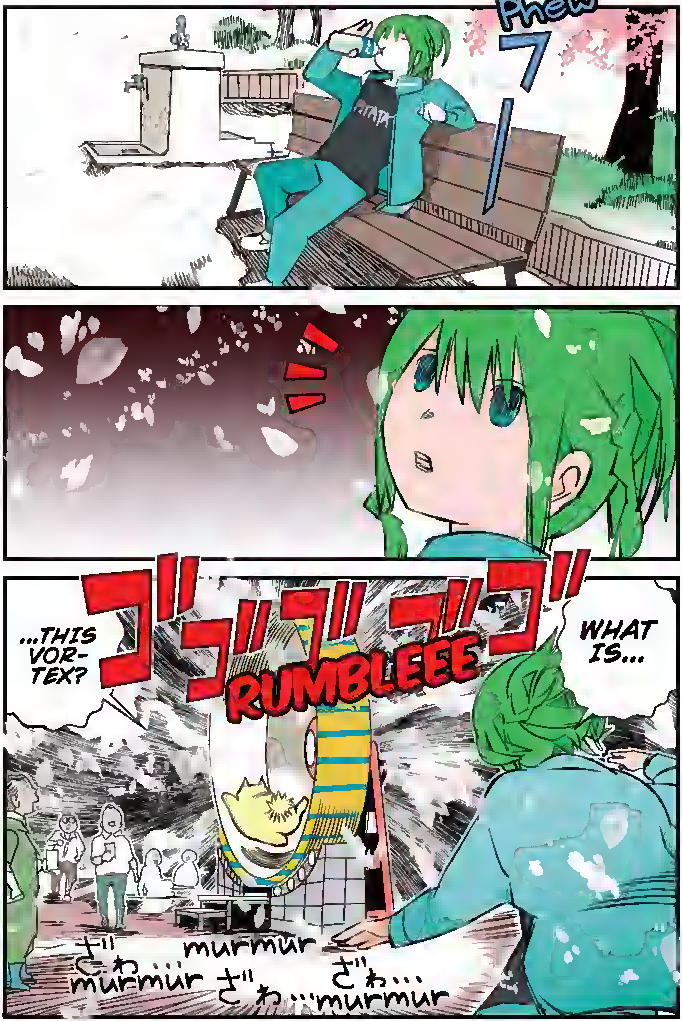

IF THIS KEEPS UP, I'M GONNA...
CRAP... SUCH POWER!
pant
pant
pant
pant
pant
FWUMP


HUH
?!
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL

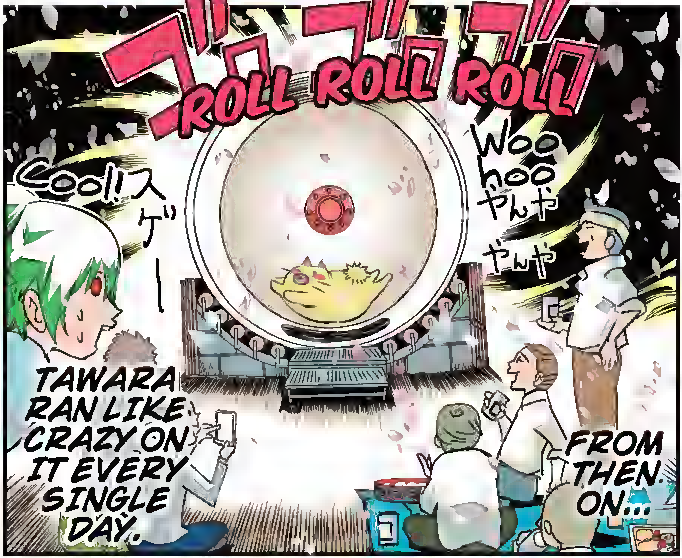

TH... THIS IS...
Hop
WAH !
I'M GOING AROUND BY CENTRIFUGAL FORCE.
CENTRIFUGAL FORCE
CENTRIFUGAL FORCE!
CENTRIFUGAL FORCE
CENTRIFUGAL FORCE
CENTRIFUGAL FORCE

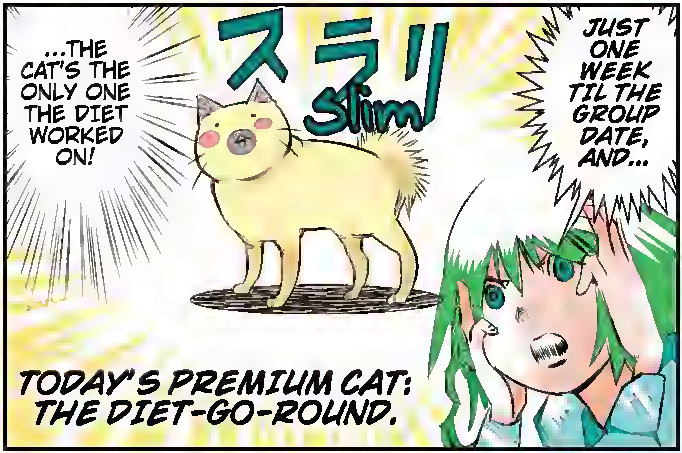

...KIND OF FUN.
THIS IS...
...GET-TING KIND OF...
BUT I'M...
Roll
Roll
I'M GONNA... TAKE A BREAK...
wobble
wobble
Roll Roll
コロコロ


WHY'S IT GOING AROUND LIKE THAT?!
WHAT IS THAT?
IT'S A CAT!
NO WAY THERE'S ONE THAT BIG!
A HAM-STER?

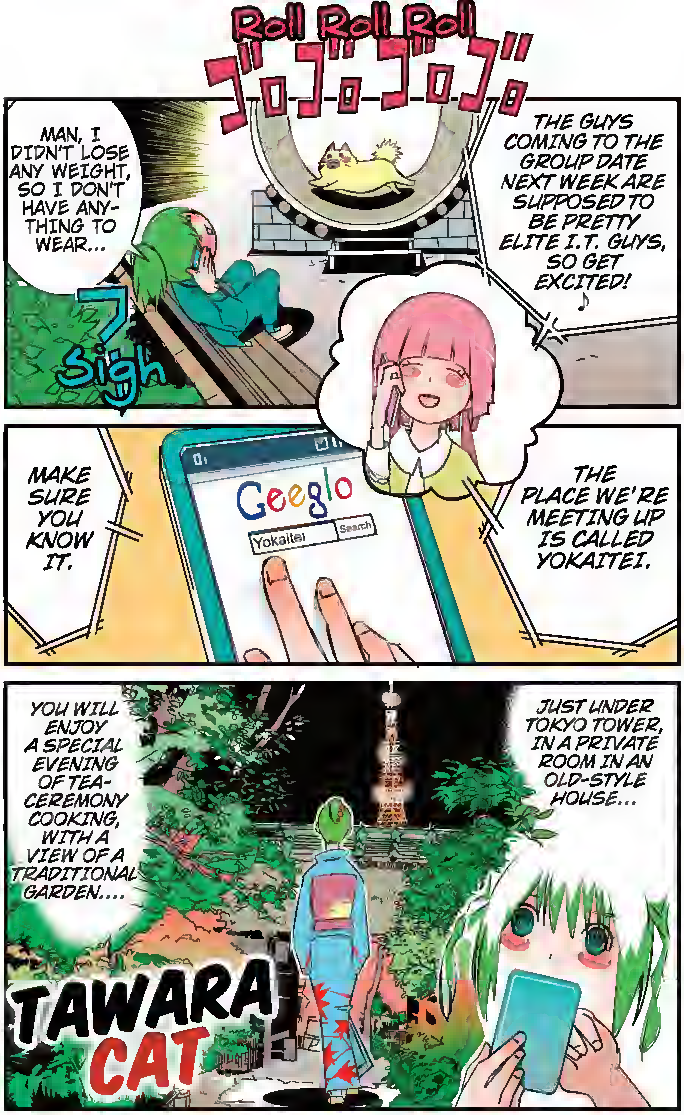

Phew
...THIS VOR-TEX?
ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ
RUMBLEEE
WHAT IS...
murmur
murmur
murmur

THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS ARE SO PRETTY.
WHAT IS THAT IN THE PARK? A WHIRLWIND?
ゴオ
RUMBLEEEE
オ
RUMBLEEEE
オオオ





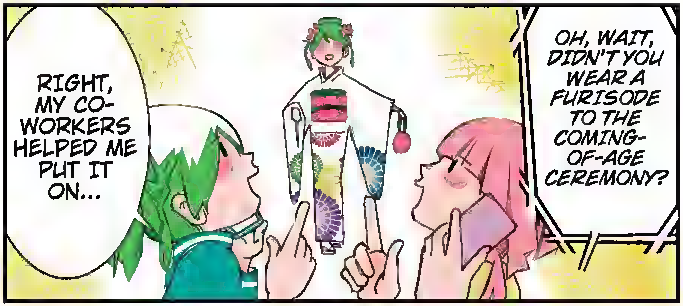
AFTER THIS, THE DIET-GO-ROUND MACHINE BECAME THE STUFF OF LEGENDS, AND FOLKS LINED UP TO USE IT.

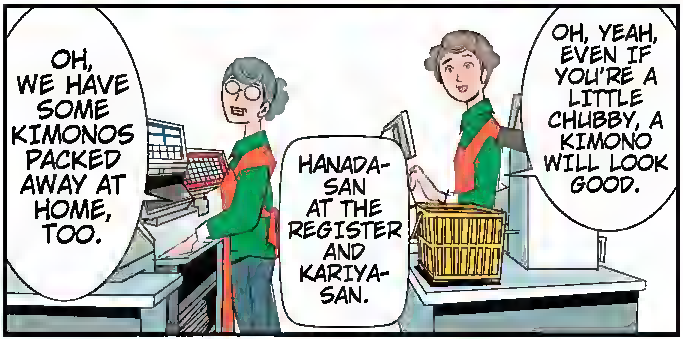

Roll Roll Roll
ゴロゴロゴロ
MAN, I DIDN'T LOSE ANY WEIGHT, SO I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO WEAR...
Sigh
THE GUYS COMING TO THE GROUP DATE NEXT WEEK ARE SUPPOSED TO BE PRETTY ELITE I.T. GUYS, SO GET EXCITED!
♪
MAKE SURE YOU KNOW IT.
Geeglo
Yokaitei
Search
THE PLACE WE'RE MEETING UP IS CALLED YOKAITEI.
YOU WILL ENJOY A SPECIAL EVENING OF TEA-CEREMONY COOKING, WITH A VIEW OF A TRADITIONAL GARDEN....
JUST UNDER TOKYO TOWER, IN A PRIVATE ROOM IN AN OLD-STYLE HOUSE...
TAWARA CAT

THIS STORY IS FICTIONAL, AND COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO REAL PEOPLE, GROUPS, OR EVENTS.

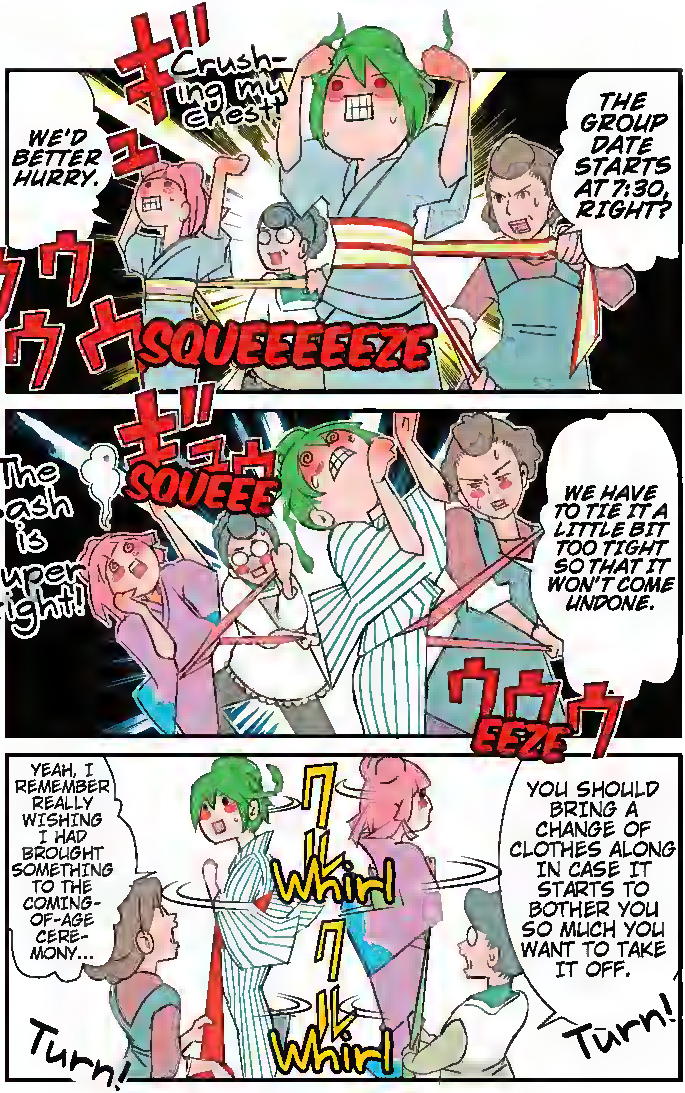
Translation by Abby Lehrke
Adaptation by Alexandra Swanson
YKS SERVICES LLC / SKY JAPAN, Inc

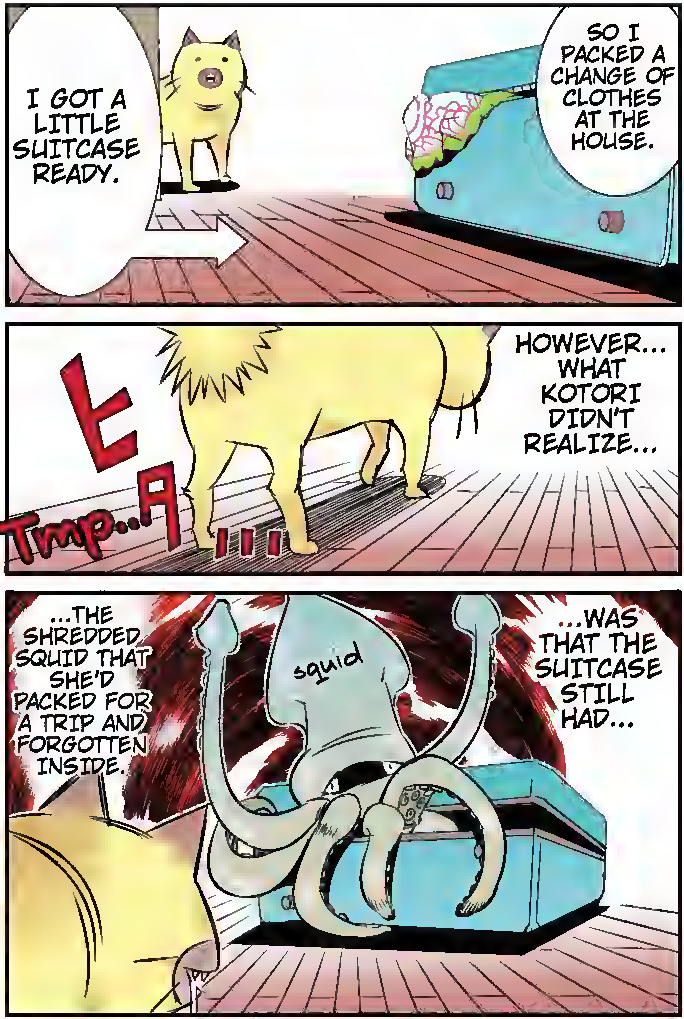
IT'D BE GREAT TO GO IN A KIMONO!
I'VE GOT IT!
3 Turn
AH! I WANNA WEAR ONE TOO!
TAWARA 13:
KOTORI'S DESTINY ♥
TORAKO HIDAKA

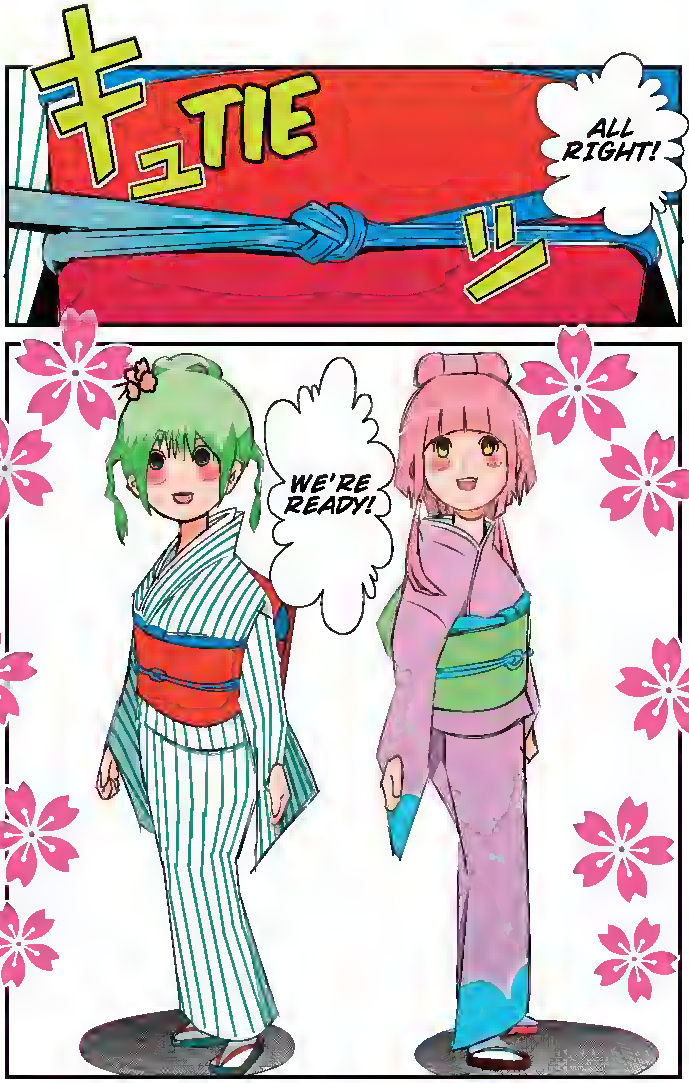

RIGHT, MY CO-WORKERS HELPED ME PUT IT ON...
OH, WAIT, DIDN'T YOU WEAR A FURISODE TO THE COMING-OF-AGE CEREMONY?

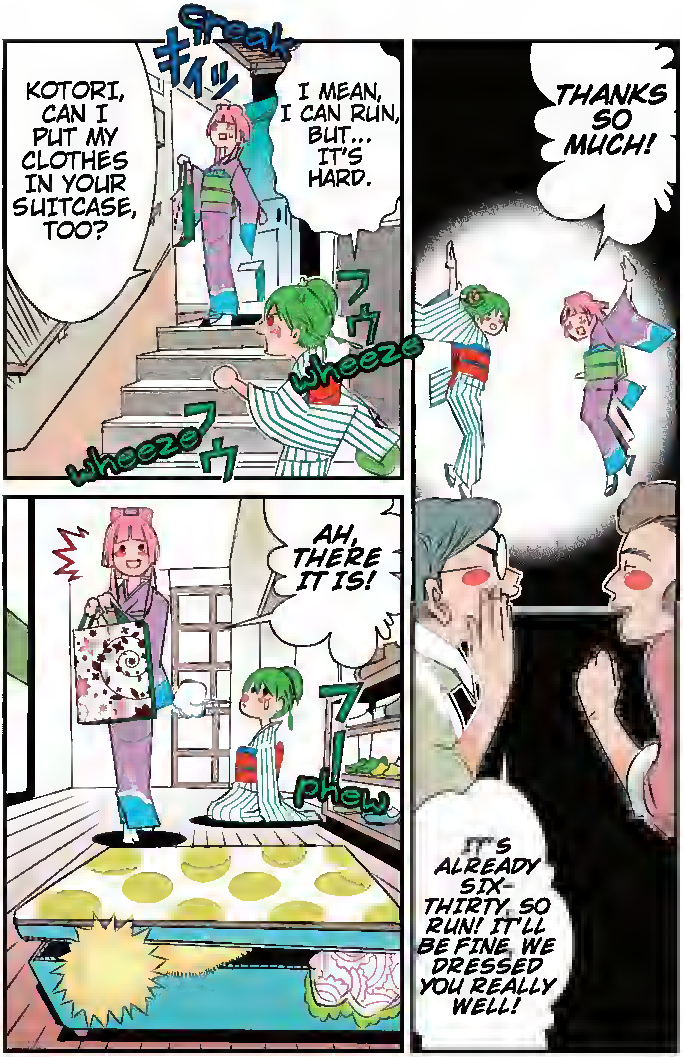

OH, WE HAVE SOME KIMONOS PACKED AWAY AT HOME, TOO.
HANADA-SAN AT THE REGISTER AND KARIYA-SAN.
OH, YEAH, EVEN IF YOU'RE A LITTLE CHUBBY, A KIMONO WILL LOOK GOOD.

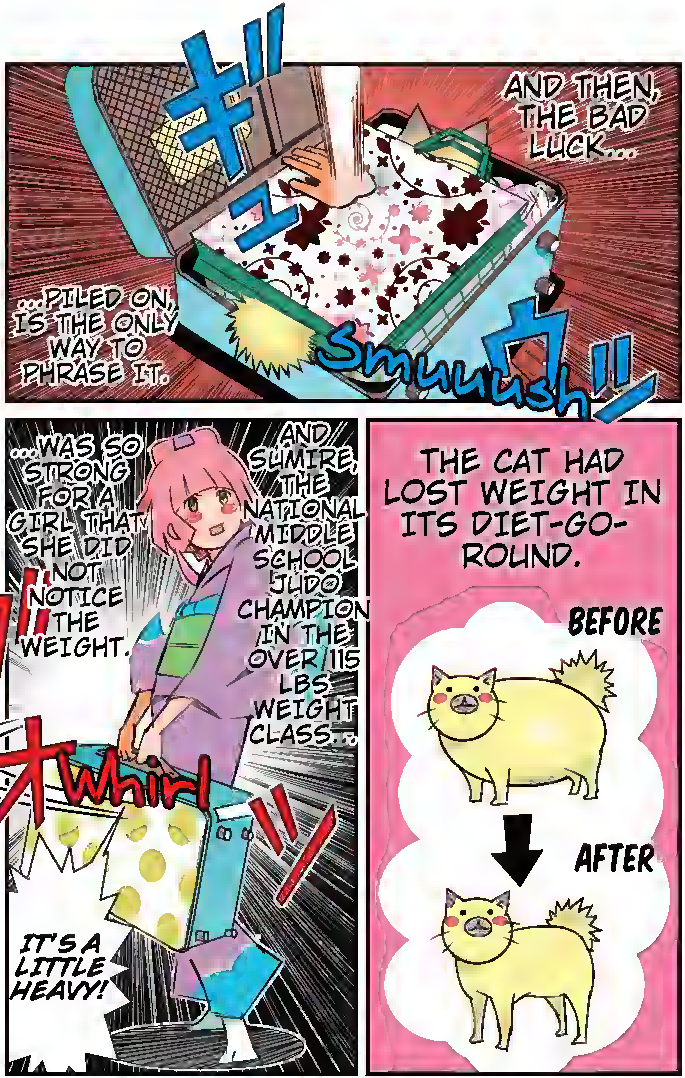
THANKS FOR HELPING US GET READY!
AND SO, ON THE DAY OF THE GROUP DATE.

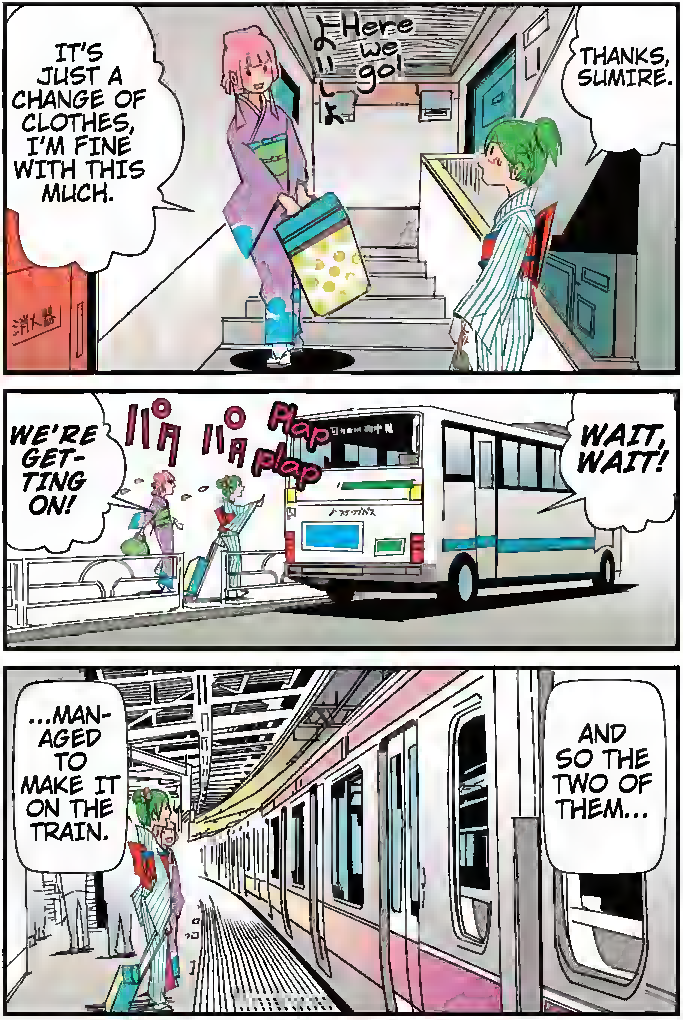

Crush-ing my chest!!
WE'D BETTER HURRY.
THE GROUP DATE STARTS AT 7:30, RIGHT?
SQUEEEEEEZE
SQUEEE
The sash is super tight!
WE HAVE TO TIE IT A LITTLE BIT TOO TIGHT SO THAT IT WON'T COME UNDONE.
EEZE
YEAH, I REMEMBER REALLY WISHING I HAD BROUGHT SOMETHING TO THE COMING-OF-AGE CERE-MONY...
Whirl
Whirl
YOU SHOULD BRING A CHANGE OF CLOTHES ALONG IN CASE IT STARTS TO BOTHER YOU SO MUCH YOU WANT TO TAKE IT OFF.
Turn!
Turn!


I GOT A LITTLE SUITCASE READY.
SO I PACKED A CHANGE OF CLOTHES AT THE HOUSE.
HOWEVER... WHAT KOTORI DIDN'T REALIZE...
Tmp...
squid
...THE SHREDDED SQUID THAT SHE'D PACKED FOR A TRIP AND FORGOTTEN INSIDE.
...WAS THAT THE SUITCASE STILL HAD...

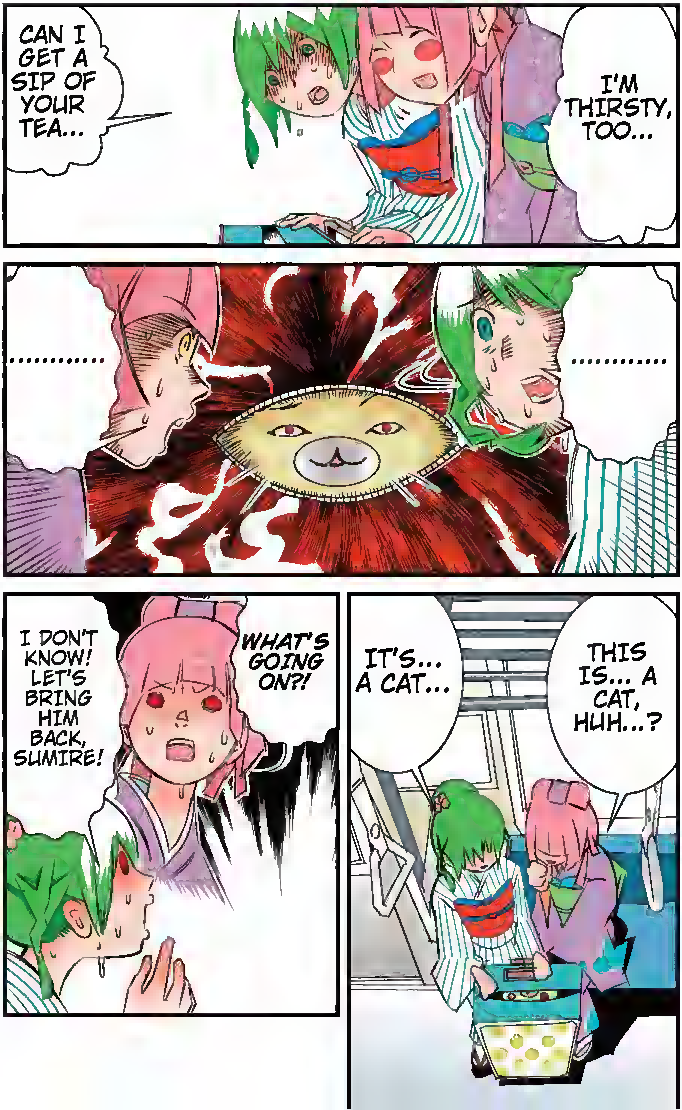

キュTIE
ALL RIGHT!
WE'RE READY!

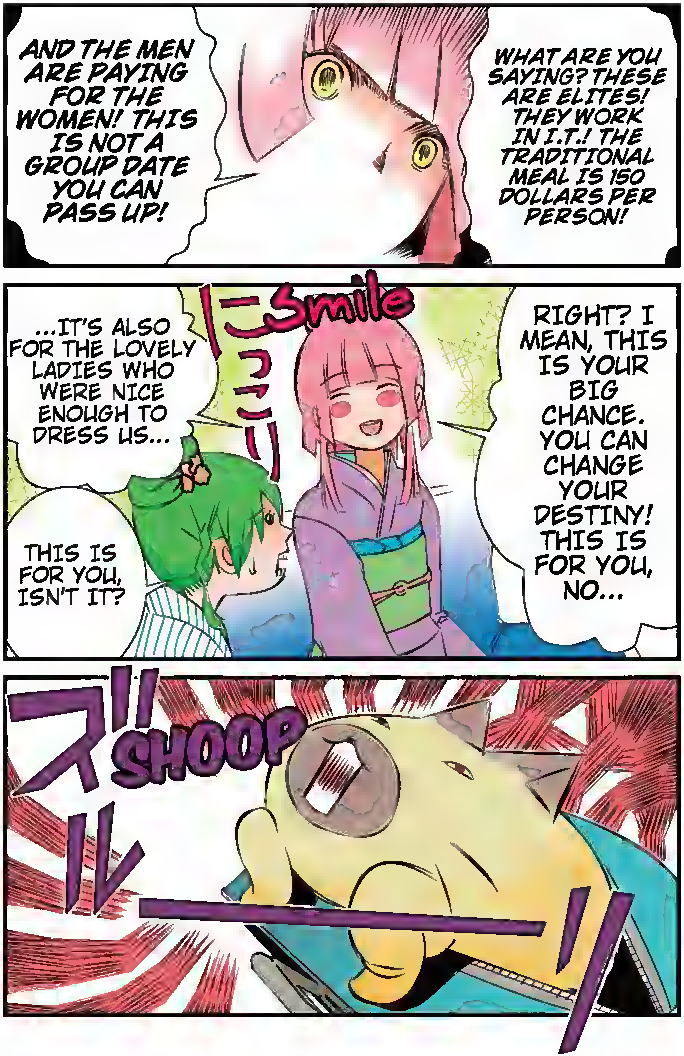

KOTORI, CAN I PUT MY CLOTHES IN YOUR SUITCASE, TOO?
I MEAN, I CAN RUN, BUT... IT'S HARD.
Creak
キィッ
wheeze
wheeze
THANKS SO MUCH!
IT'S ALREADY SIX-THIRTY, SO RUN! IT'LL BE FINE, WE DRESSED YOU REALLY WELL!
AH, THERE IT IS!
phew


AND THEN, THE BAD LUCK...
...PILED ON, IS THE ONLY WAY TO PHRASE IT.
Smuuush!!
...WAS SO STRONG FOR A GIRL THAT SHE DID NOT NOTICE THE WEIGHT.
AND SUMIRE, THE NATIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL JUDO CHAMPION IN THE OVER 115 LBS. WEIGHT CLASS...
Whirl
IT'S A LITTLE HEAVY!
THE CAT HAD LOST WEIGHT IN ITS DIET-GO-ROUND.
BEFORE
AFTER


IT'S JUST A CHANGE OF CLOTHES, I'M FINE WITH THIS MUCH.
Here we go!
THANKS, SUMIRE.
WE'RE GET-TING ON!
Flap flap
WAIT, WAIT!
...MAN-AGED TO MAKE IT ON THE TRAIN.
AND SO THE TWO OF THEM...

I'M REALLY GLAD WE BROUGHT A CHANGE OF CLOTHES.
AH, RIGHT, I LEFT A BOTTLE OF TEA...
STARE
Phew
I SENT THE OTHER GROUP A MESSAGE SAYING WE'LL BE ABOUT A HALF-HOUR LATE.
MAN, I'M ALREADY HOT AND SUFFERING IN THIS OUTFIT.
STARE
STARE
STARE
.....
...IN HERE... TOO...

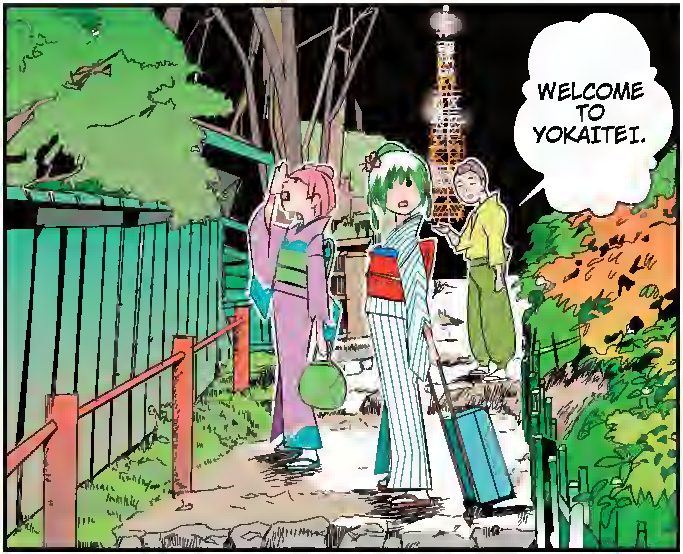

CAN I GET A SIP OF YOUR TEA...
I'M THIRSTY, TOO...
.....
.....
I DON'T KNOW! LET'S BRING HIM BACK, SUMIRE!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
IT'S... A CAT...
THIS IS... A CAT, HUH...?

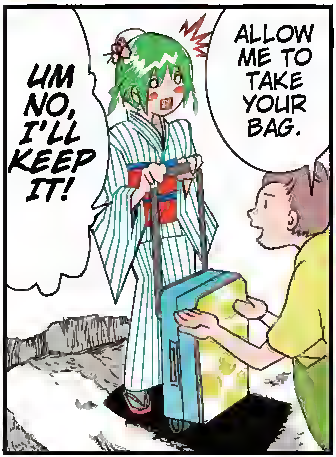

AND THE MEN ARE PAYING FOR THE WOMEN! THIS IS NOT A GROUP DATE YOU CAN PASS UP!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? THESE ARE ELITES! THEY WORK IN I.T.! THE TRADITIONAL MEAL IS 150 DOLLARS PER PERSON!
...IT'S ALSO FOR THE LOVELY LADIES WHO WERE NICE ENOUGH TO DRESS US...
Smile
にこっ
RIGHT? I MEAN, THIS IS YOUR BIG CHANCE. YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR DESTINY! THIS IS FOR YOU, NO...
THIS IS FOR YOU, ISN'T IT?
SHOOP
スルー

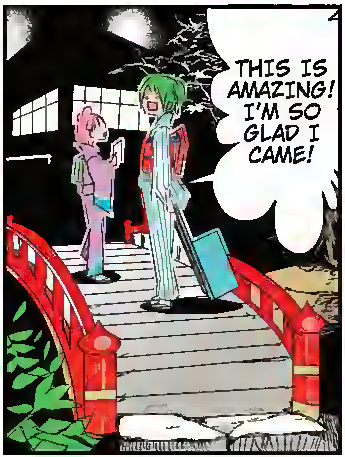
I WILL NOT GO BACK!
THAT'S RIGHT! TAWARA'S SCARED OF SUMIRE.
ズボ Shff

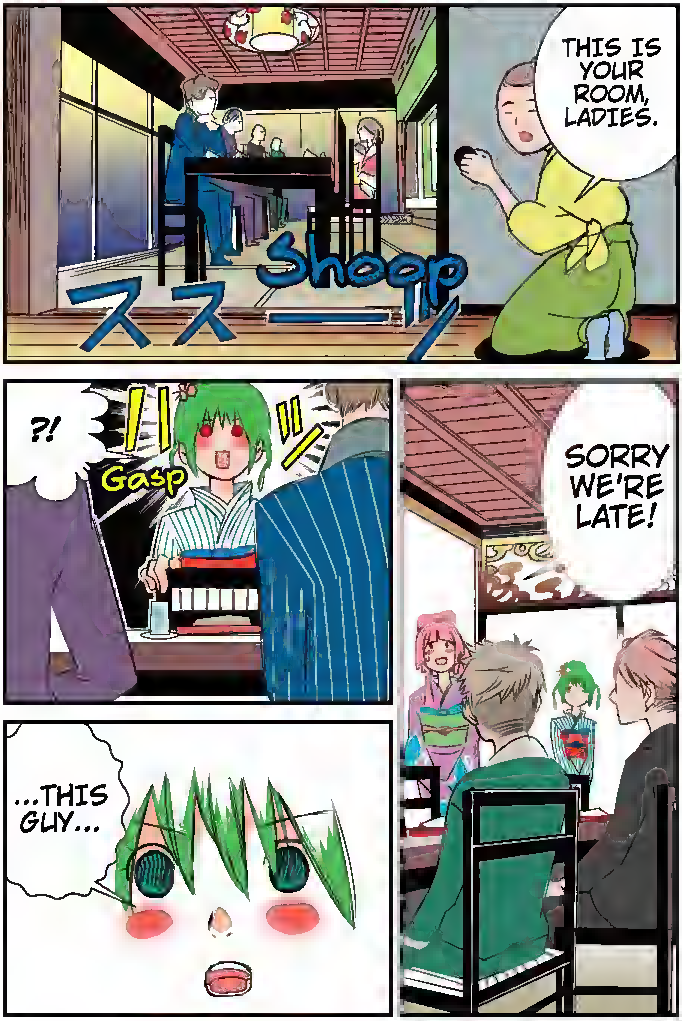
HOW DARE YOU INTERRUPT MY GROUP DATE, YOU DAMN CAT...!
GLARE
キロリ
TWITCH
ピクッ

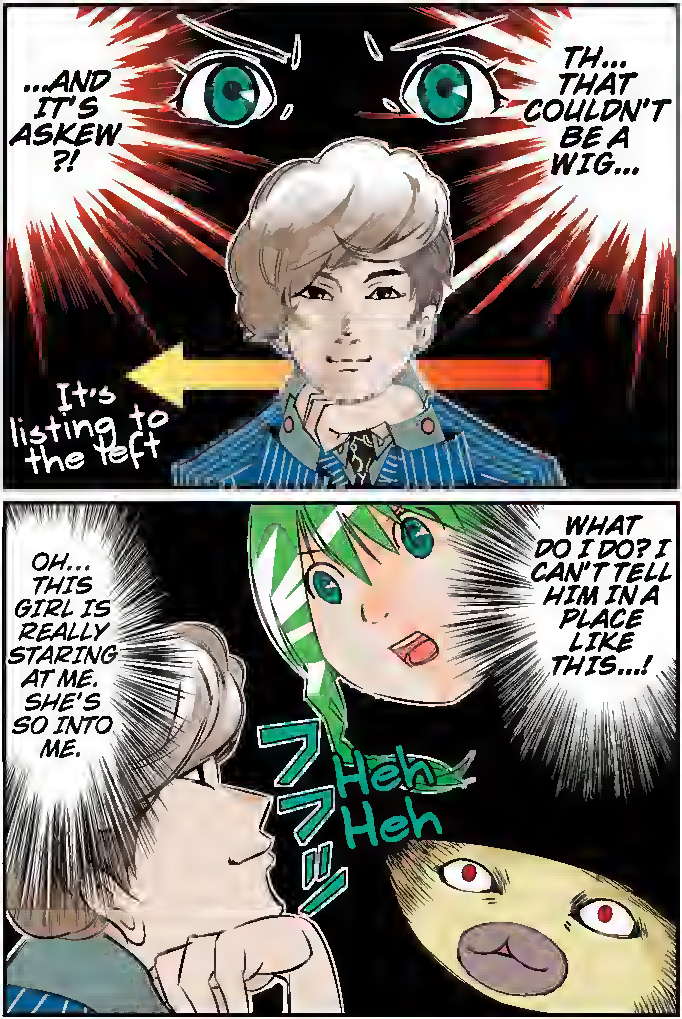
SHAKE
フル
IF I MAKE SURE TO HAVE SUMIRE GIVE HIM A GOOD GLARE...
フル SHAKE
...WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO MAKE IT THROUGH THIS THING...


WELCOME TO YOKAITEI.


ALLOW ME TO TAKE YOUR BAG.
UM NO, I'LL KEEP IT!


THIS IS AMAZING! I'M SO GLAD I CAME!


THIS IS YOUR ROOM, LADIES.
Sheep
スース
?!
Gasp
SORRY WE'RE LATE!
...THIS GUY...


...AND IT'S ASKEW ?!
TH... THAT COULDN'T BE A WIG...
It's listing to the left
OH... THIS GIRL IS REALLY STARING AT ME. SHE'S SO INTO ME.
フフッ!!
Heh Heh
WHAT DO I DO? I CAN'T TELL HIM IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...!

A DESTINED MEETING WITH A USER FRIENDLY AND HANDSOME YOUNG MAN WITH INCREDIBLY FASHIONABLE HAIR! ♥ KOTORI, DON'T SAY A WORD!!

MangaBox

TWO WICKED EYES HAVE LOCKED ON TO KOTORI!! A GROUP DATE BATTLE WITHOUT HONOR OR HUMANITY IS NOW BEGINNING...
TAWARA 14:
KOTORI'S GROUP DATE: MORTAL COMBAT
TORAKO HIDAKA
TAWARA CAT

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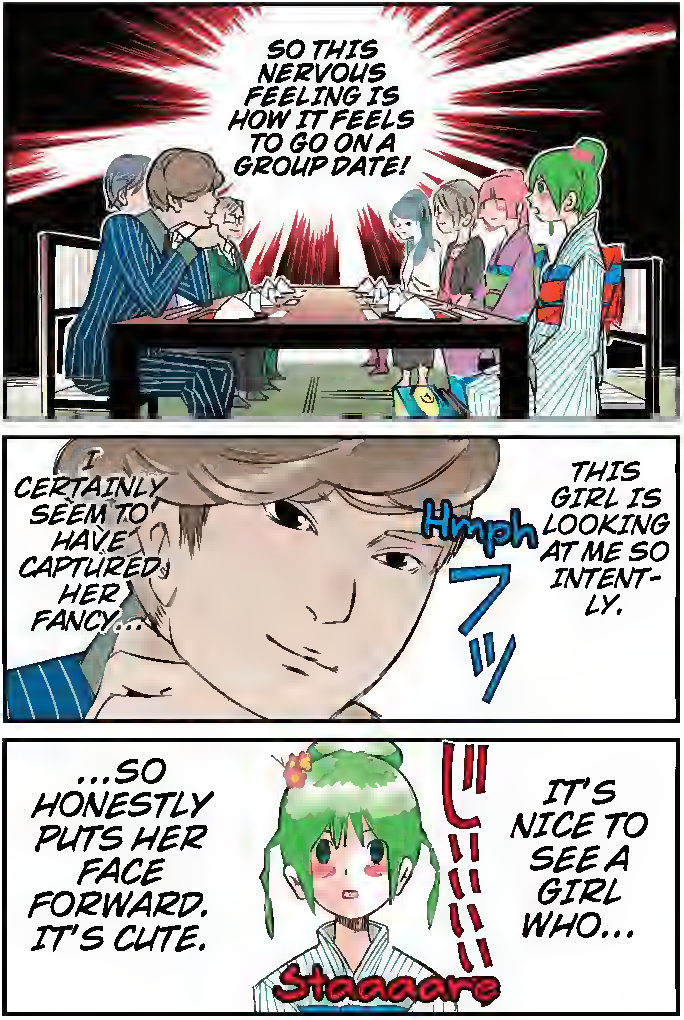
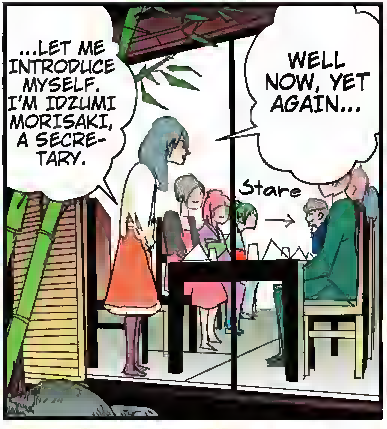
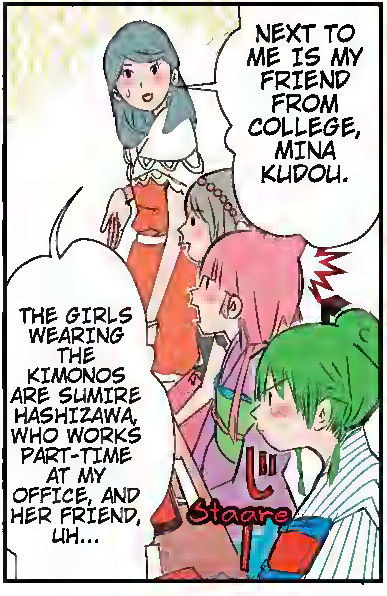
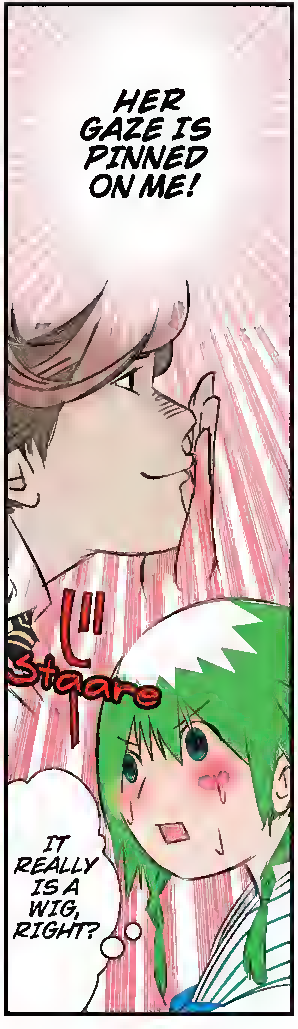
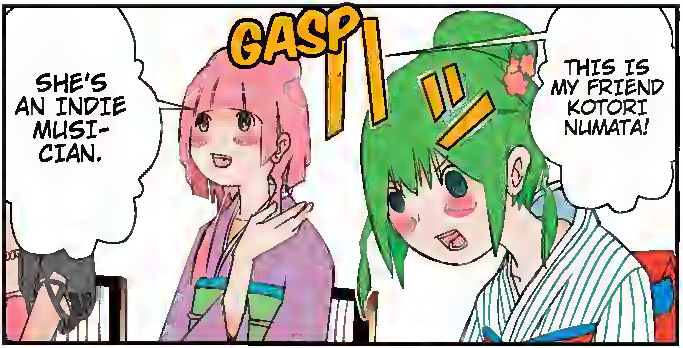
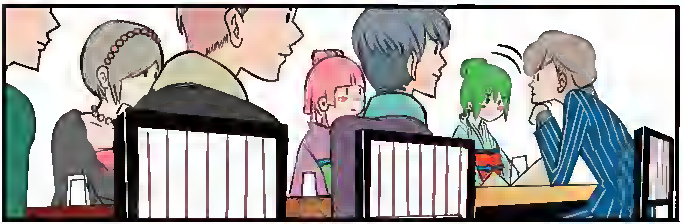

SO THIS NERVOUS FEELING IS HOW IT FEELS TO GO ON A GROUP DATE!
I CERTAINLY SEEM TO HAVE CAPTURED HER FANCY...
Hmph
フッ
THIS GIRL IS LOOKING AT ME SO INTENTLY.
...SO HONESTLY PUTS HER FACE FORWARD. IT'S CUTE.
Staaaare
IT'S NICE TO SEE A GIRL WHO...

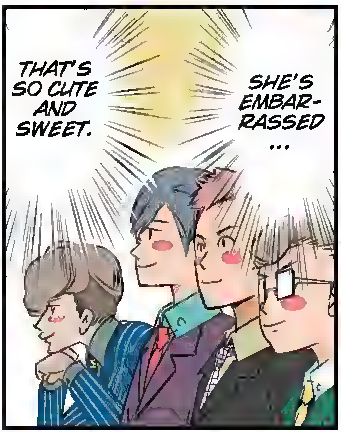

...LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF. I'M IDZUMI MORISAKI, A SECRE-TARY.
WELL NOW, YET AGAIN...
Stare

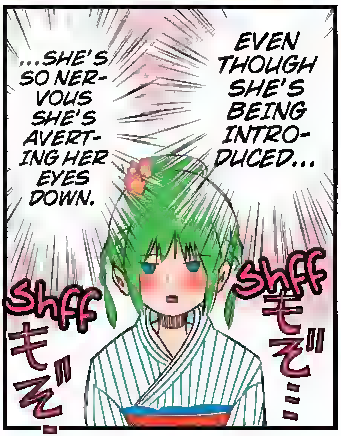

NEXT TO ME IS MY FRIEND FROM COLLEGE, MINA KUDOU.
THE GIRLS WEARING THE KIMONOS ARE SUMIRE HASHIZAWA, WHO WORKS PART-TIME AT MY OFFICE, AND HER FRIEND, UH...
Staare

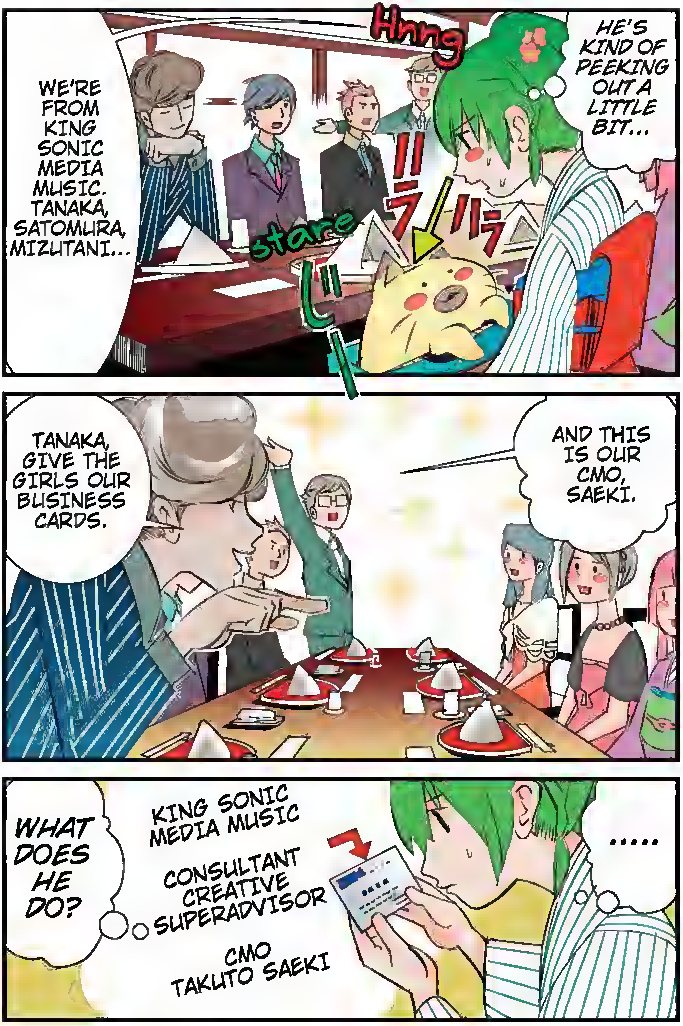

HER GAZE IS PINNED ON ME!
Staare
IT REALLY IS A WIG, RIGHT?

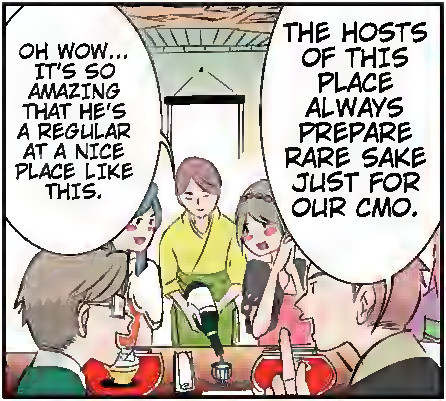

GASP!!
SHE'S AN INDIE MUSI-CIAN.
THIS IS MY FRIEND KOTORI NUMATA!

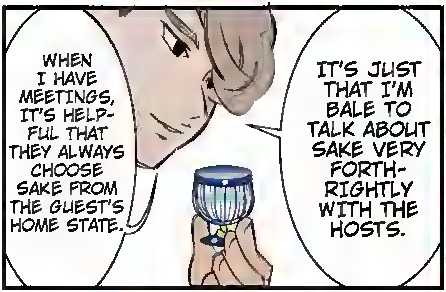


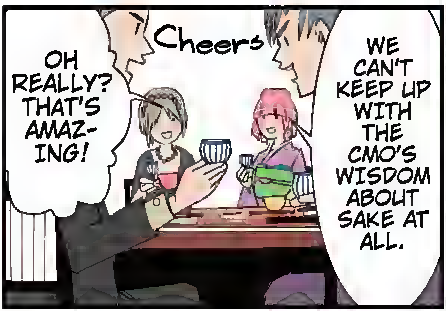

THAT'S SO CUTE AND SWEET.
SHE'S EMBAR-RASSED ...


...SHE'S SO NER-VOUS SHE'S AVERT-ING HER EYES DOWN.
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S BEING INTRO-DUCED...
Shff
Shff


WE'RE FROM KING SONIC MEDIA MUSIC. TANAKA, SATOMURA, MIZUTANI...
Hnng
HE'S KIND OF PEEKING OUT A LITTLE BIT...
stare
TANAKA, GIVE THE GIRLS OUR BUSINESS CARDS.
AND THIS IS OUR CMO, SAEKI.
WHAT DOES HE DO?
KING SONIC MEDIA MUSIC
CONSULTANT CREATIVE SUPERADVISOR
CMO TAKUTO SAEKI
.....


THE HOSTS OF THIS PLACE ALWAYS PREPARE RARE SAKE JUST FOR OUR CMO.
OH WOW... IT'S SO AMAZING THAT HE'S A REGULAR AT A NICE PLACE LIKE THIS.

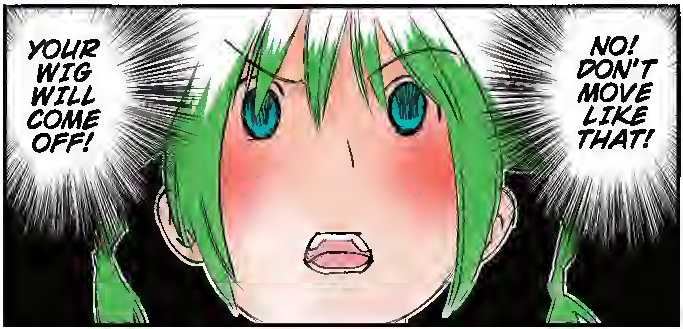

IT'S JUST THAT I'M BALE TO TALK ABOUT SAKE VERY FORTH-RIGHTLY WITH THE HOSTS.
WHEN I HAVE MEETINGS, IT'S HELP-FUL THAT THEY ALWAYS CHOOSE SAKE FROM THE GUEST'S HOME STATE.

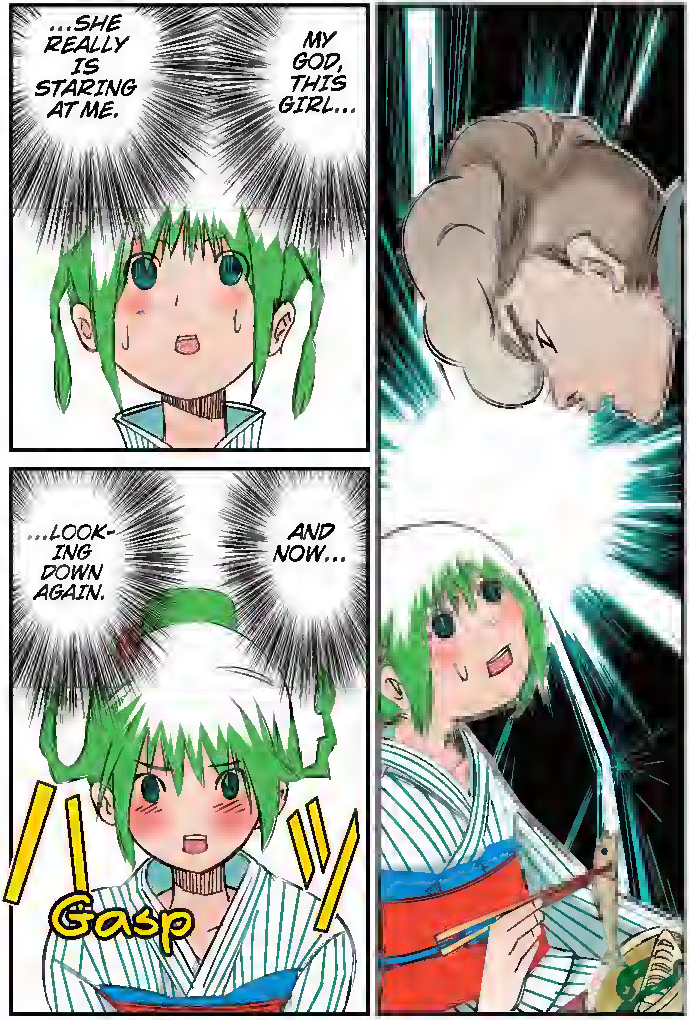

WE CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THE CMO'S WISDOM ABOUT SAKE AT ALL.
Cheers
OH REALLY? THAT'S AMAZ-ING!

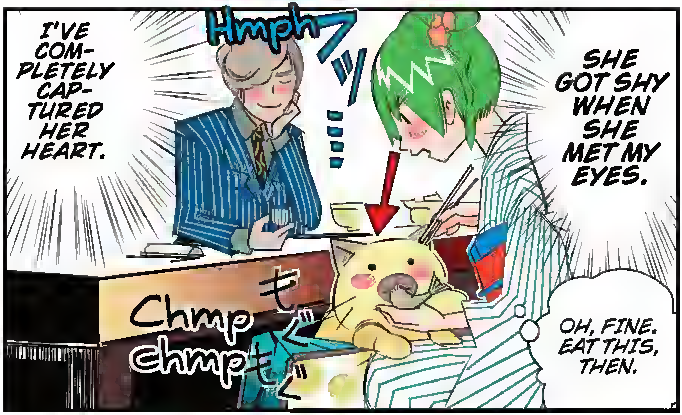
I'VE BROUGHT UDASSAI 23 SAKE.
海獺祭
AND AS A HORS D'OEUVRE. BAMBOO SHOOTS WITH SMELT AND FRESH GREENS.

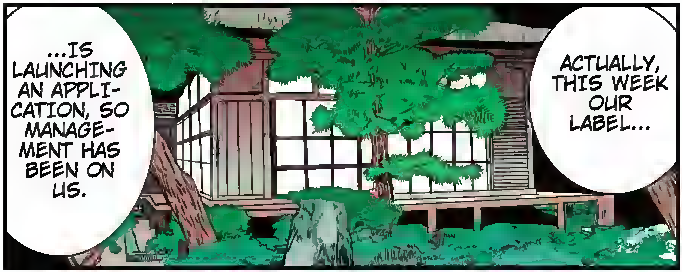
SEASONAL VEGETABLES PAIRED WITH A SPECIAL SAKE MADE FROM TOP-QUALITY GRAINS, WITH NO SUGAR OR MIXED LIQUOR.*
THE HOSTS REALLY ARE EXPERTS AT SAKE.
BUT OF COURSE THEIR KNOWL-EDGE OF WINE...
...IS COM-PLETELY LACK-ING.
Shake
Shake

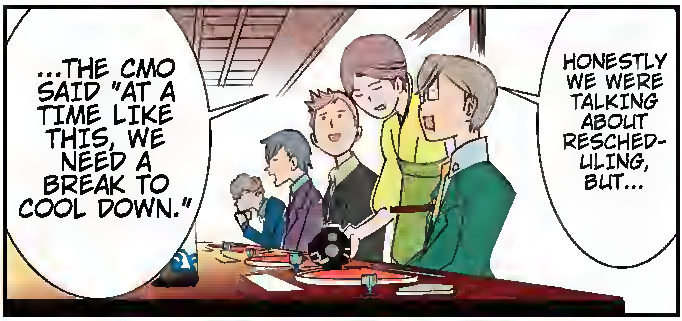
*JUNMAIDAIGINJOSHU OR 純米大吟醸 IN JAPANESE

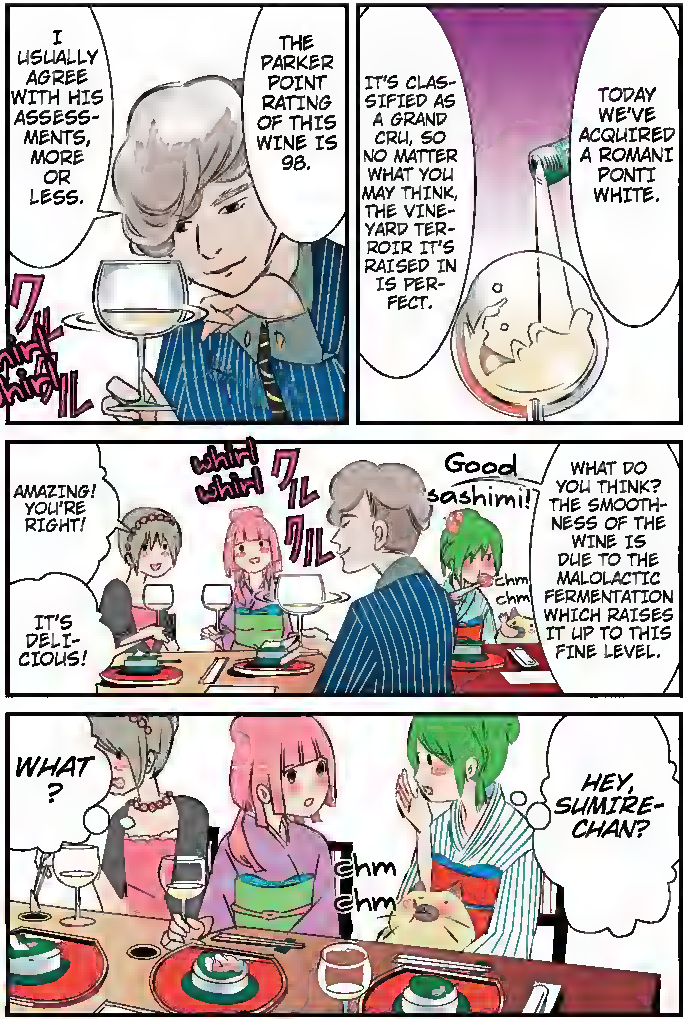


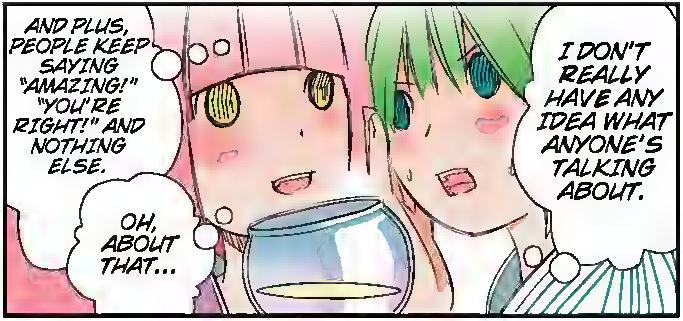

...SHE REALLY IS STARING AT ME.
MY GOD, THIS GIRL...
...LOOK-ING DOWN AGAIN.
AND NOW...
Gasp

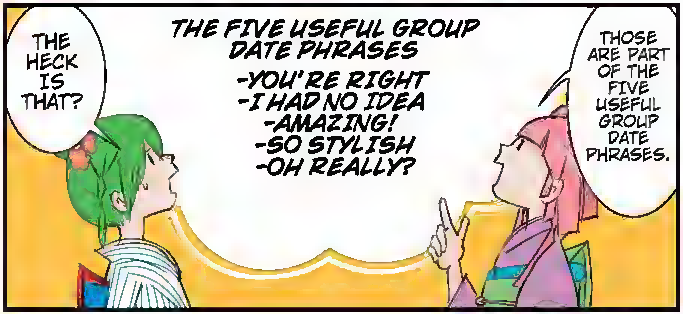

I'VE COMPLETELY CAPTURED HER HEART.
Hmph
SHE GOT SHY WHEN SHE MET MY EYES.
Chmp
Chmp
OH, FINE. EAT THIS, THEN.

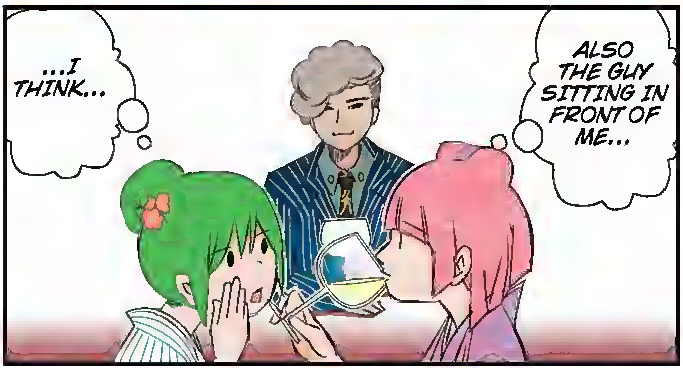

...IS LAUNCHING AN APPLICATION, SO MANAGEMENT HAS BEEN ON US.
ACTUALLY, THIS WEEK OUR LABEL...

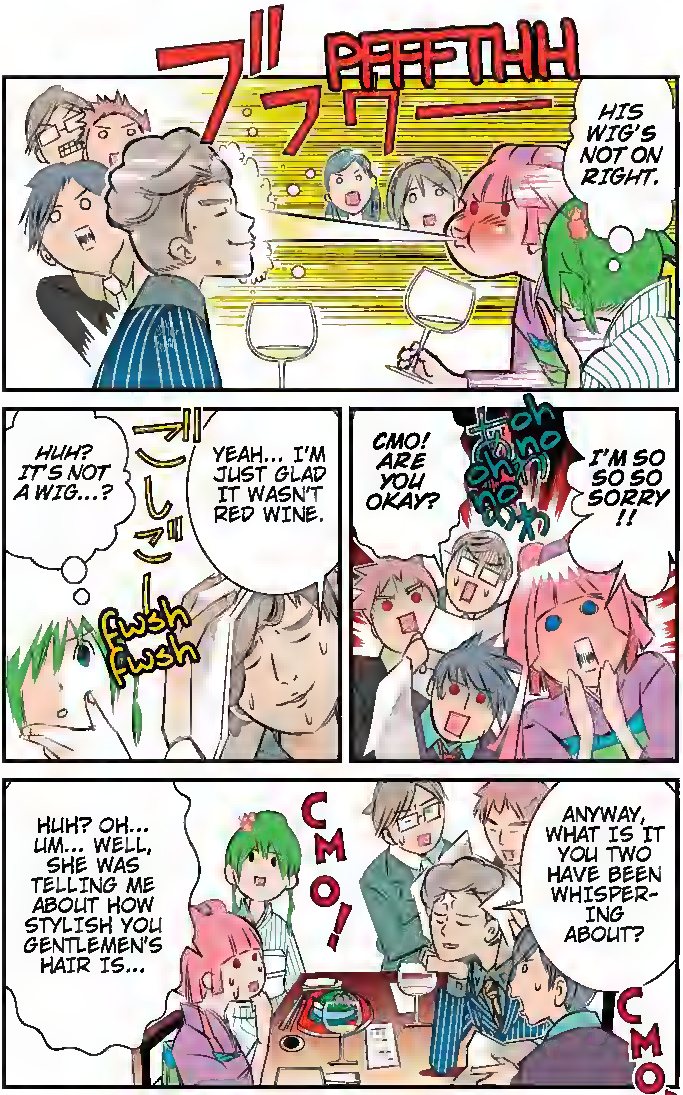

...THE CMO SAID "AT A TIME LIKE THIS, WE NEED A BREAK TO COOL DOWN."
HONESTLY WE WERE TALKING ABOUT RESCHEDULING, BUT...

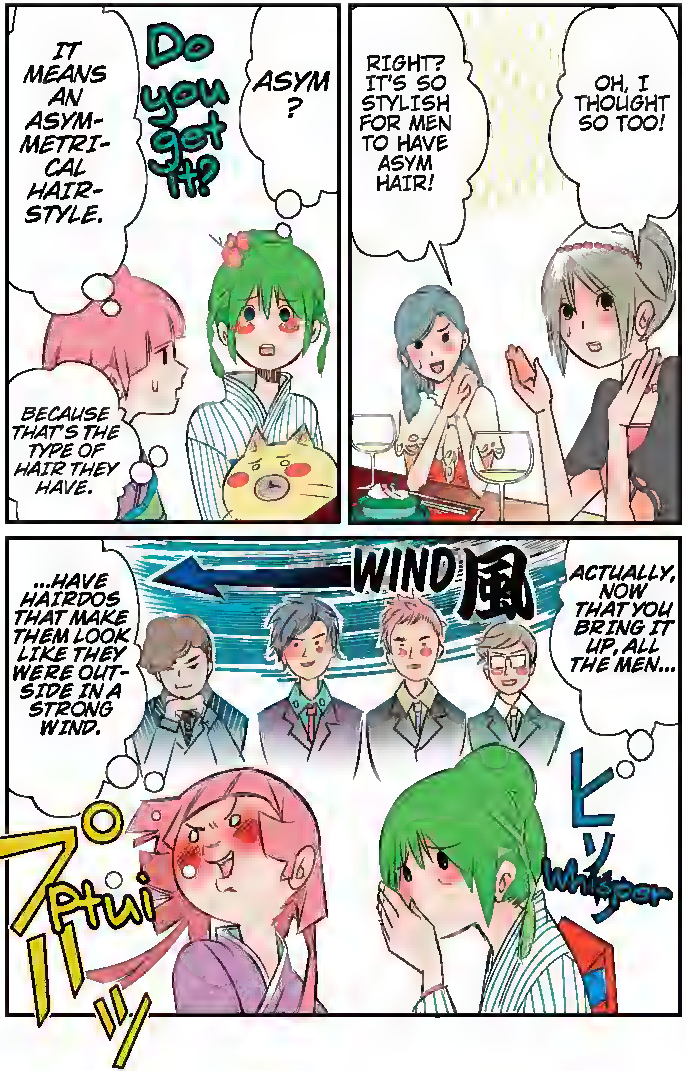

I USUALLY AGREE WITH HIS ASSESS-MENTS, MORE OR LESS.
THE PARKER POINT RATING OF THIS WINE IS 98.
ワル whirl whirl ル
TODAY WE'VE ACQUIRED A ROMANI PONTI WHITE.
IT'S CLAS-SIFIED AS A GRAND CRU, SO NO MATTER WHAT YOU MAY THINK, THE VINE-YARD TER-ROIR IT'S RAISED IN IS PER-FECT.
AMAZING! YOU'RE RIGHT!
whirl whirl ワル ワル
Good sashimi!
chm chm
WHAT DO YOU THINK? THE SMOOTH-NESS OF THE WINE IS DUE TO THE MALOLACTIC FERMENTATION WHICH RAISES IT UP TO THIS FINE LEVEL.
IT'S DELI-CIOUS!
WHAT ?
chm chm
HEY, SUMIRE-CHAN?

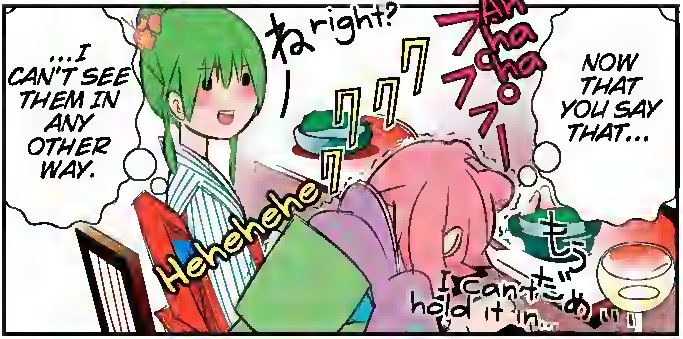

I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT ANYONE'S TALKING ABOUT.
AND PLUS, PEOPLE KEEP SAYING "AMAZING!" "YOU'RE RIGHT!" AND NOTHING ELSE.
OH, ABOUT THAT...

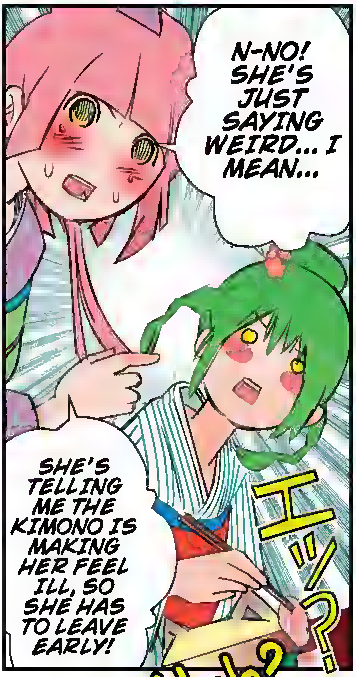

THE FIVE USEFUL GROUP DATE PHRASES
-YOU'RE RIGHT
-I HAD NO IDEA
-AMAZING!
-SO STYLISH
-OH REALLY?
THE HECK IS THAT?
THOSE ARE PART OF THE FIVE USEFUL GROUP DATE PHRASES.

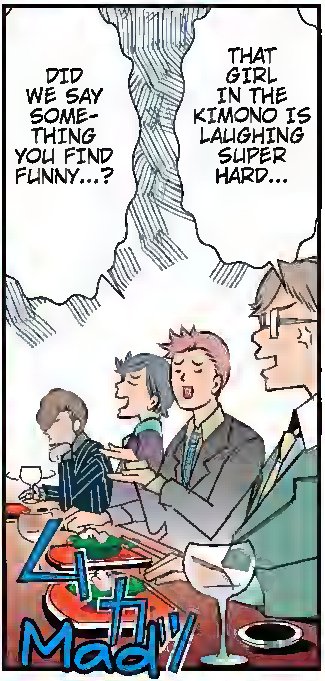

ALSO THE GUY SITTING IN FRONT OF ME...
...I THINK...

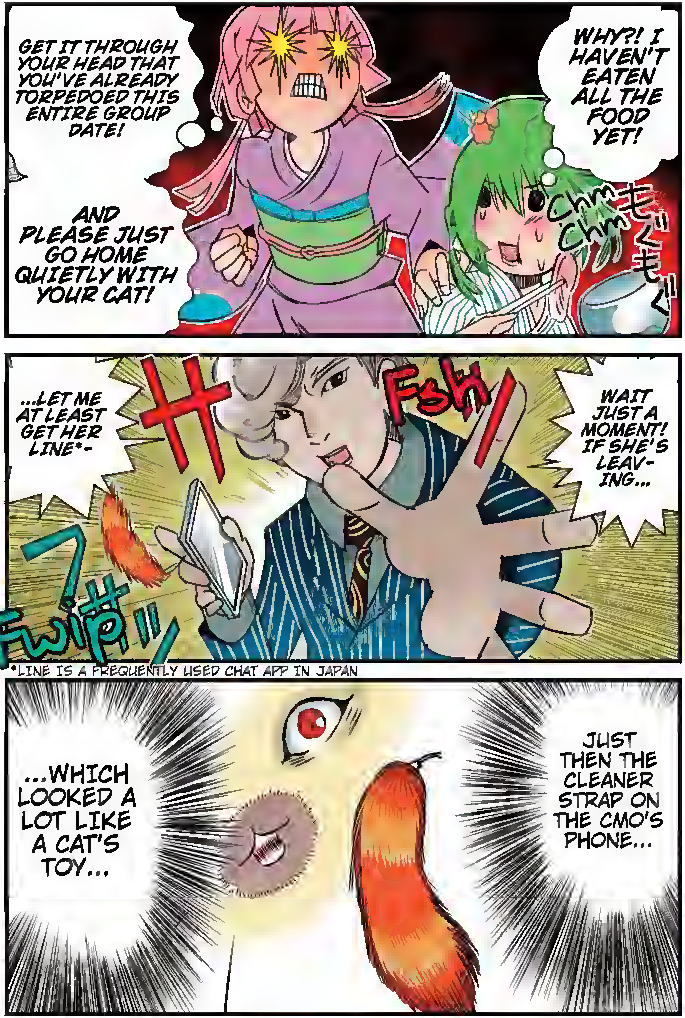

PFFFTHH
HIS WIG'S NOT ON RIGHT.
YEAH... I'M JUST GLAD IT WASN'T RED WINE.
HUH? IT'S NOT A WIG...?
fwsh fwsh
I'M SO SO SO SORRY !!
oh no no no
CMO! ARE YOU OKAY?
ANYWAY, WHAT IS IT YOU TWO HAVE BEEN WHISPERING ABOUT?
CMO!
HUH? OH... UM... WELL, SHE WAS TELLING ME ABOUT HOW STYLISH YOU GENTLEMEN'S HAIR IS...
CMO!


OH, I THOUGHT SO TOO!
RIGHT? IT'S SO STYLISH FOR MEN TO HAVE ASYM HAIR!
ASYM ?
Do you get it?
IT MEANS AN ASYM-METRI-CAL HAIR-STYLE.
BECAUSE THAT'S THE TYPE OF HAIR THEY HAVE.
ACTUALLY, NOW THAT YOU BRING IT UP, ALL THE MEN...
WIND 風
...HAVE HAIRDOS THAT MAKE THEM LOOK LIKE THEY WERE OUT-SIDE IN A STRONG WIND.
ヒソ
Whisper
フーッ
Phui


...I CAN'T SEE THEM IN ANY OTHER WAY.
right?
Hehehehe
Ah ha ha ha
NOW THAT YOU SAY THAT...
I can't hold it in...


N-NO! SHE'S JUST SAYING WEIRD... I MEAN...
SHE'S TELLING ME THE KIMONO IS MAKING HER FEEL ILL, SO SHE HAS TO LEAVE EARLY!
Huh?


DID WE SAY SOME-THING YOU FIND FUNNY...?
THAT GIRL IN THE KIMONO IS LAUGHING SUPER HARD...
Mad!


GET IT THROUGH YOUR HEAD THAT YOU'VE ALREADY TORPEDOED THIS ENTIRE GROUP DATE!
AND PLEASE JUST GO HOME QUIETLY WITH YOUR CAT!
WHY?! I HAVEN'T EATEN ALL THE FOOD YET!
Chm Chm
...LET ME AT LEAST GET HER LINE*-
Fsh
WAIT JUST A MOMENT! IF SHE'S LEAV-ING...
Fwip
*LINE IS A FREQUENTLY USED CHAT APP IN JAPAN
...WHICH LOOKED A LOT LIKE A CAT'S TOY...
JUST THEN THE CLEANER STRAP ON THE CMO'S PHONE...

...THE CAT'S INSTINCTS.
IT WAS A VERY DRAMATIC SITUATION.
PRO-VOKED...
Fwish!!
スポ
Swoosh

MangaBox

Why is there a cat here...?
TAWARA CAT
TAWARA 15:
TAWARA, ACTING ON HIS WHIMS AS USUAL, DOES NOT LAY ONE CLAW ON THE TURTLE.
TORAKO HIDAKA

THIS STORY IS FICTIONAL, AND COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO REAL PEOPLE, GROUPS, OR EVENTS.

Translation by Abby Lahrke
Adaptation by Alexandra Swanson
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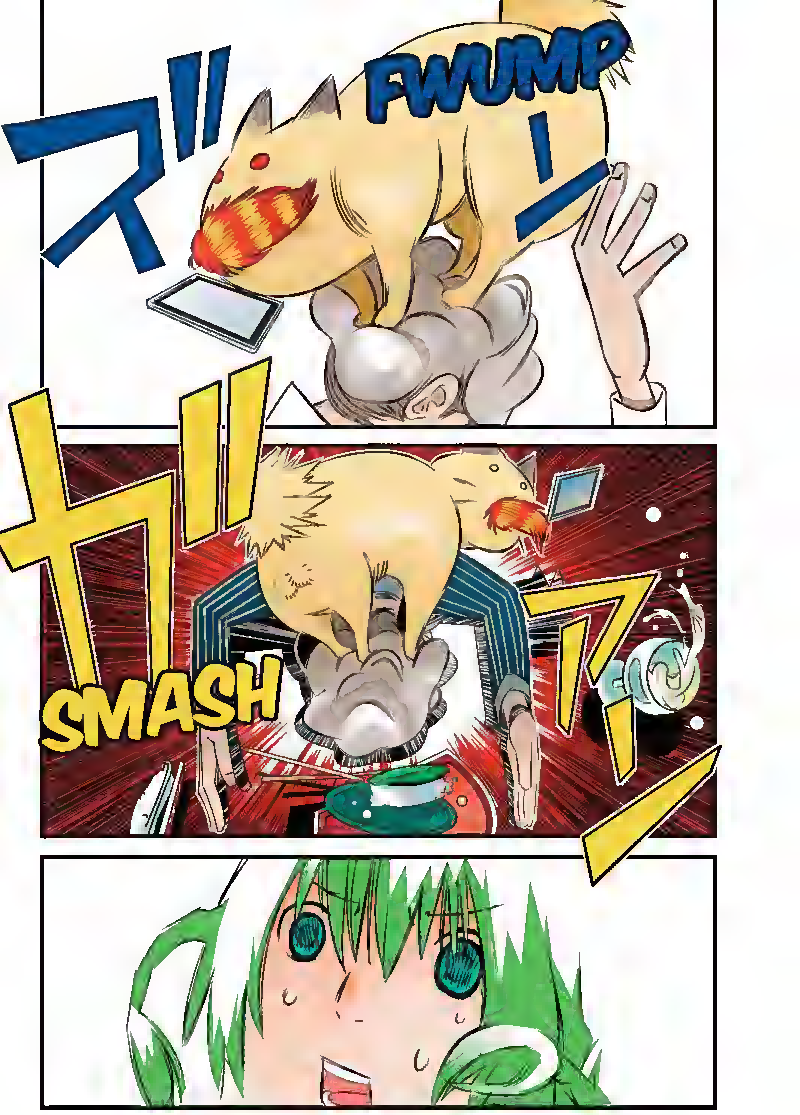
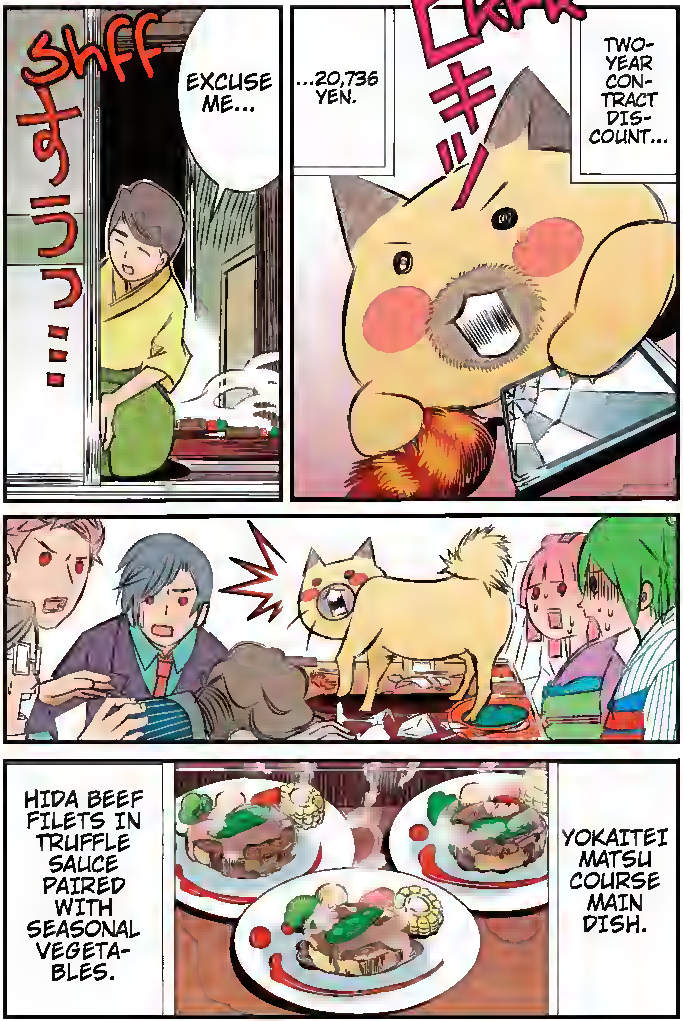
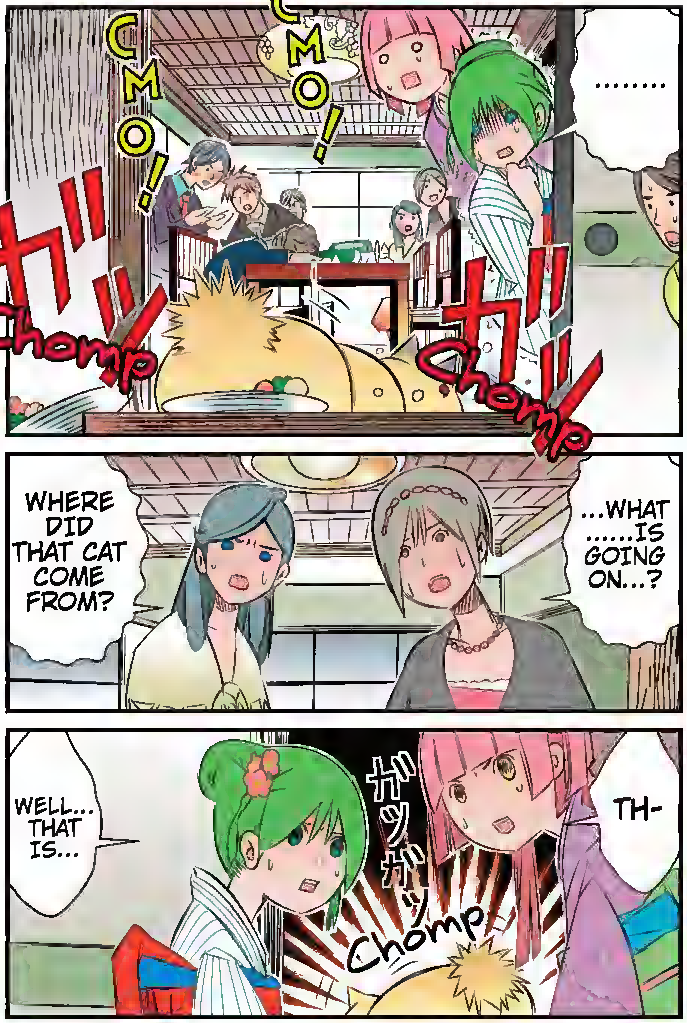

FWUMP
SMASH

KRASH
PAKARA BURGUNDY WHITE WINE GLASSES.
VALUED AT 20,000 YEN EACH.
clunk
UDASSAI SAKE, VALUED AT 30,000 YEN.
glug glug
PONTI ROMANI PREMIUM WHITE WINE, VALUED AT 300,000 YEN.
FULL PRICE AROUND 93,312 YEN.
brea breowm
IPON 5S, 64 GB.
whirl whirl whirl whirl

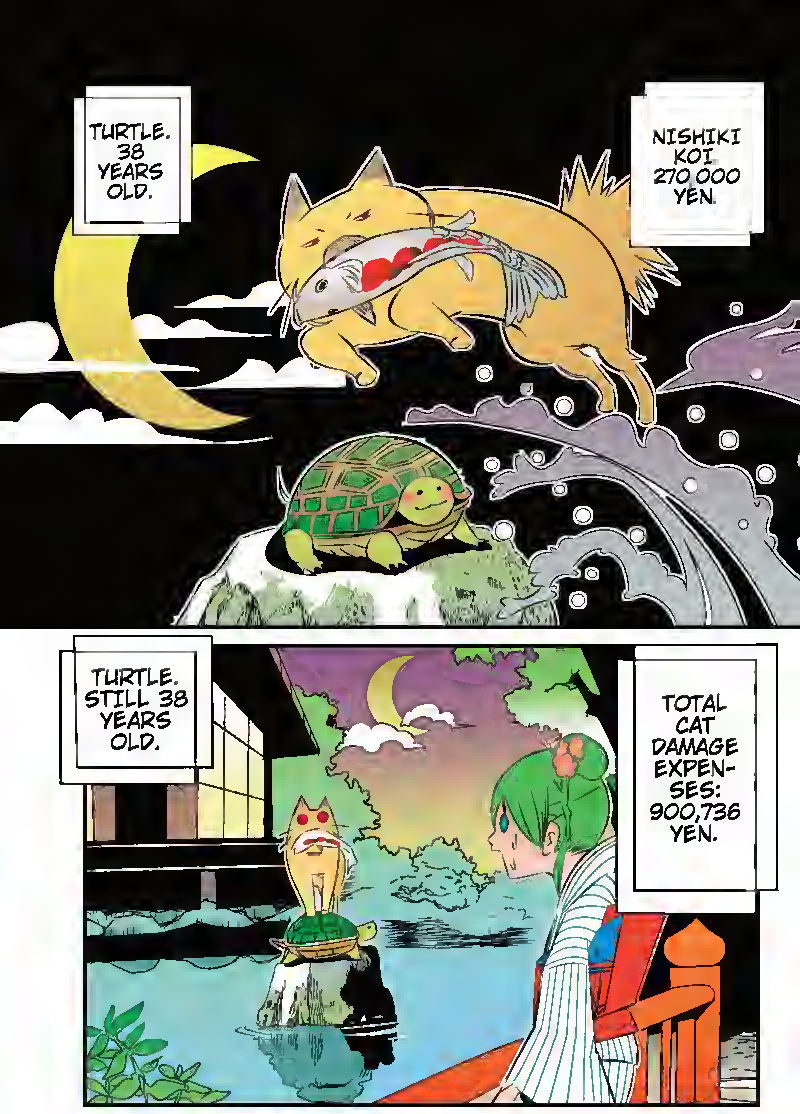

すうっ…
shff
EXCUSE ME...
…20,736 YEN.
TWO-YEAR CONTRACT DIS-COUNT...
トキッ
kirk
HIDA BEEF FILETS IN TRUFFLE SAUCE PAIRED WITH SEASONAL VEGETA-BLES.
YOKAITEI MATSU COURSE MAIN DISH.

A CA-
VOOM
EEK!
ONE PERSON SERVING, 15,000 YEN (SEPARATELY FIGURED FROM THE PER-PERSON COURSE CHARGE).
CAT?!
KRASHHH

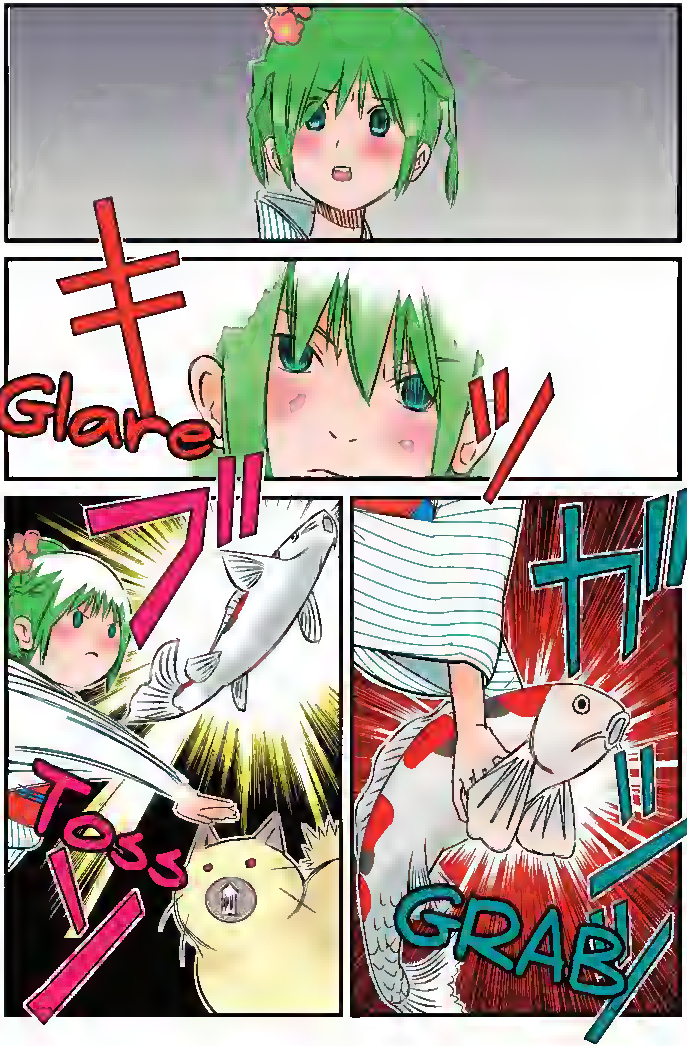

.....
CMO!
CMO!
カリ
Chomp
カリ
Chomp
...WHAT .....IS GOING ON...?
WHERE DID THAT CAT COME FROM?
TH-
ガツガツ
Chomp
WELL... THAT IS...

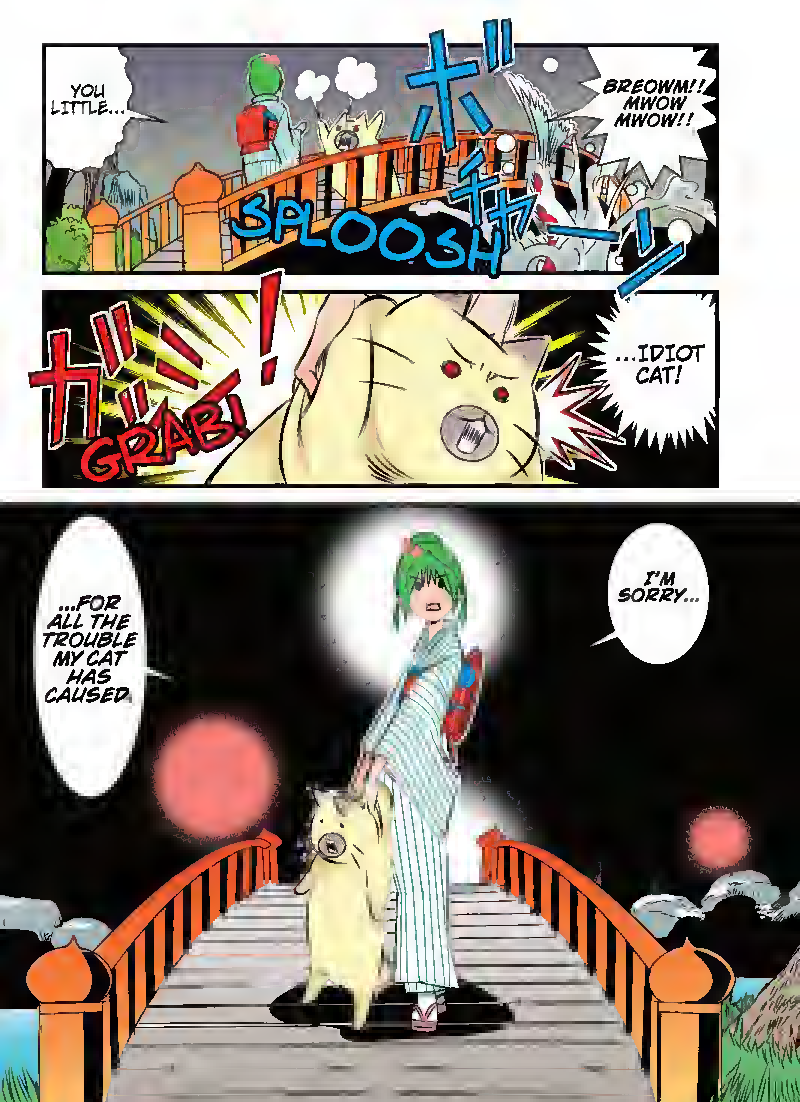
もくもく chmp chmp
チャポン
Shploosh
ポチャポチャ
Bloosh

Fwoosh
CMO, YOUR NOSE IS BLEEDING!
PLEASE BRING A HOT TOWEL!
...LINE!! ...I NEED HER LINE!
Hoosh
Hoosh
clak
clak
clak
clak
COME ON!!
ZOOM

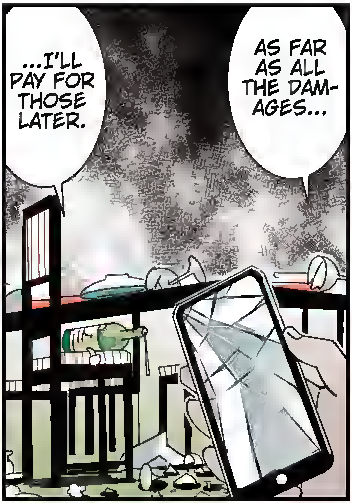

TURTLE. 38 YEARS OLD.
NISHIKI KOI. 270,000 YEN.
TURTLE. STILL 38 YEARS OLD.
TOTAL CAT DAMAGE EXPENSES: 900,736 YEN.

ストン
TUMP
トン
TMP
トン
TMP
とりゃ?
Brew?っ?
トポ
plsh
トポ
plsh

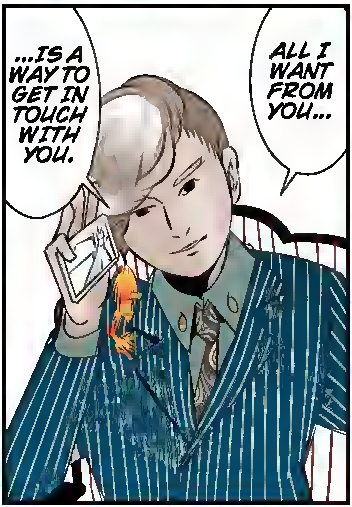

キ
Glare
ッ
フ
ッ
Toss
ッ
ナ
ッ
GRAB
ッ

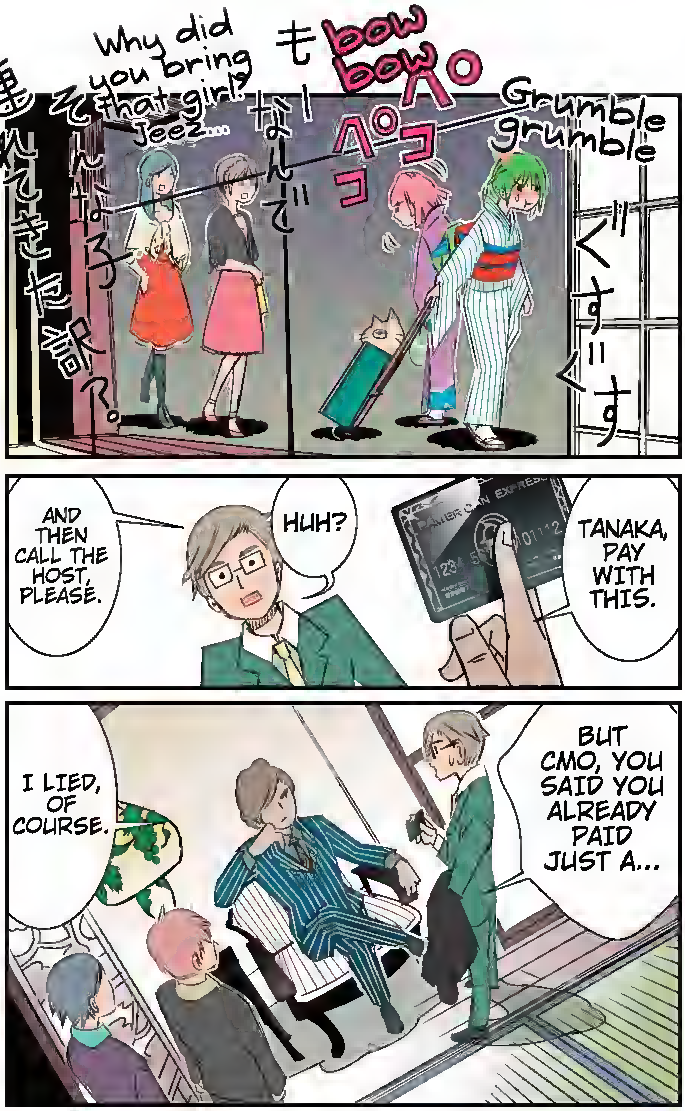

YOU LITTLE...
SPLOOSH
BREOWM!! MWOW MWOW!!
GRAB!
...IDIOT CAT!
...FOR ALL THE TROUBLE MY CAT HAS CAUSED.
I'M SORRY...

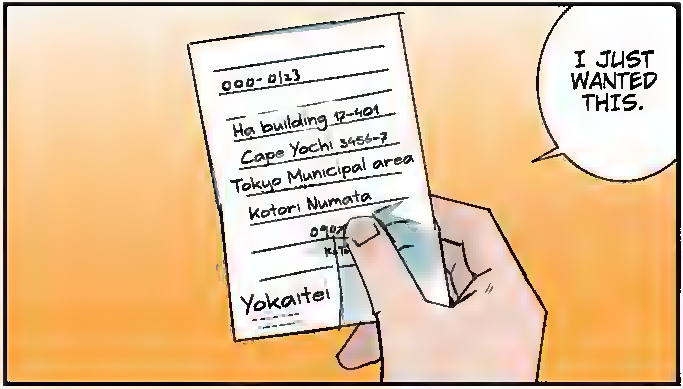
AND AS APOLOGY, I'LL PAY FOR THE MEAL TODAY AS WELL.
I'LL PAY FOR ALL THE THINGS HE BROKE.
ギュ
Cram!
DIDN'T YOU REALIZE IT WAS GOING TO END UP IN A MESS LIKE THIS?
YOU BROUGHT IT ALONG? WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?
IF IT'S NOT ENOUGH, I'VE GOT SAVINGS!
I DON'T... HAVE ENOUGH ON ME, BUT THERE'S AN ATM AT THE CONVENIENCE STORE.
.....

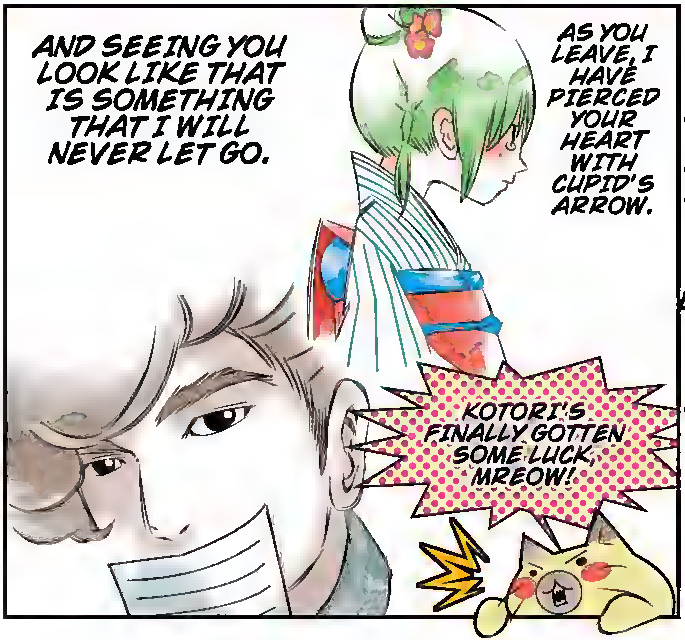

...I'LL PAY FOR THOSE LATER.
AS FAR AS ALL THE DAM-AGES...

I'VE ALREADY PAID THE BILL.
SO... HOW ABOUT THIS...


...IS A WAY TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU.
ALL I WANT FROM YOU...


連れてきた奴?
そんなろくでもない
Why did you bring that girl? Jeez...
なんで!
bow bow
ペコペコ
Grumble grumble
くすくす
AND THEN CALL THE HOST, PLEASE.
HUH?
TANAKA, PAY WITH THIS.
I LIED, OF COURSE.
BUT CMO, YOU SAID YOU ALREADY PAID JUST A...


I JUST WANTED THIS.
000-0123
Hq building 12-401
Cape Yachi 3456-7
Tokyo Municipal area
Kotori Numata
0909
Yokaite!


AND SEEING YOU LOOK LIKE THAT IS SOMETHING THAT I WILL NEVER LET GO.
AS YOU LEAVE, I HAVE PIERCED YOUR HEART WITH CUPID'S ARROW.
KOTORI'S FINALLY GOTTEN SOME LUCK, MREOW!
THE CMO HAS DONE HIS GOOD DUTY, BUT WILL IT BRING BAD LUCK OR GOOD LUCK KO-TO-RI'S WAY?

MangaBox

Kotori has to work even on the day after that terrible group date.
大変だった合コンの翌朝もことりは働きます
I DON'T GET TO SHOW UP VERY MUCH IN THIS ONE.
TAWARA CAT
TAWARA 16: NO MORE CRY, KOTORI!
TORAKO HIDAKA
Grounded

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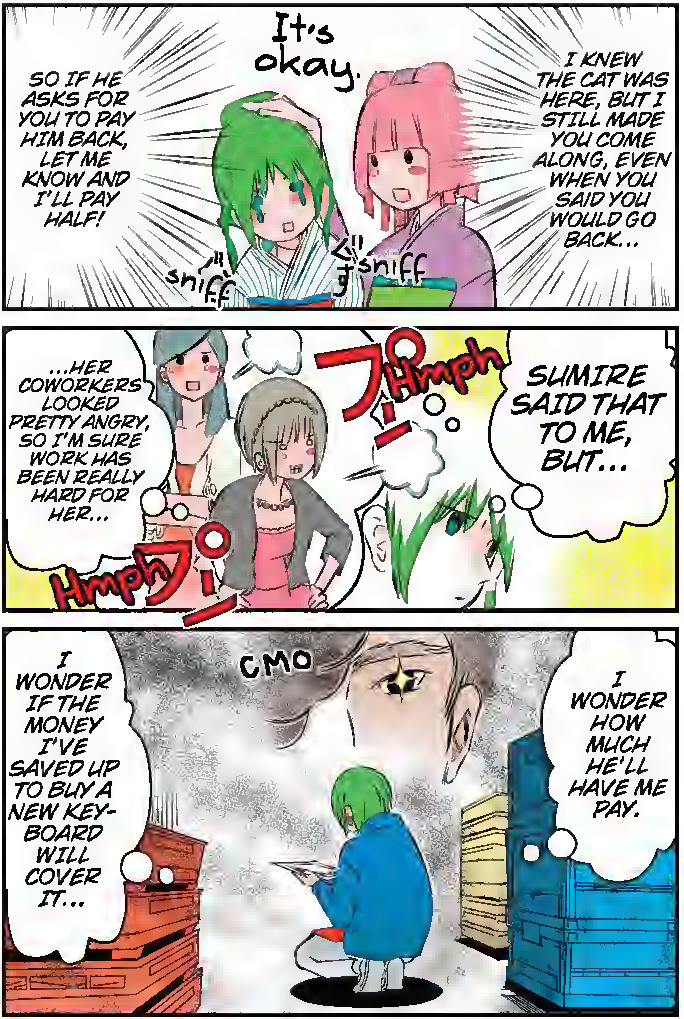
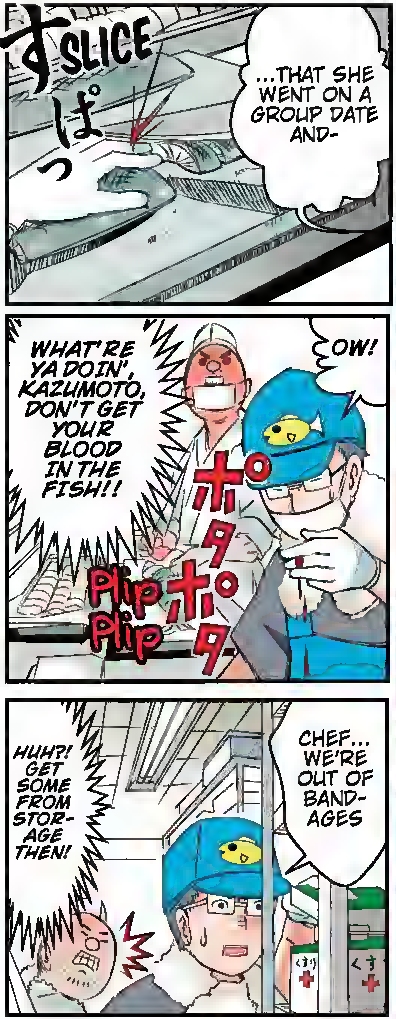
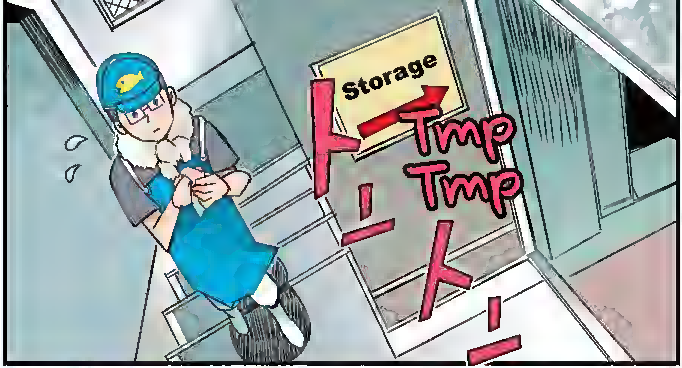
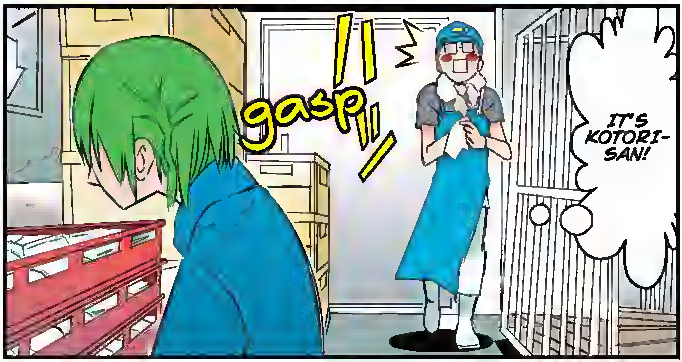
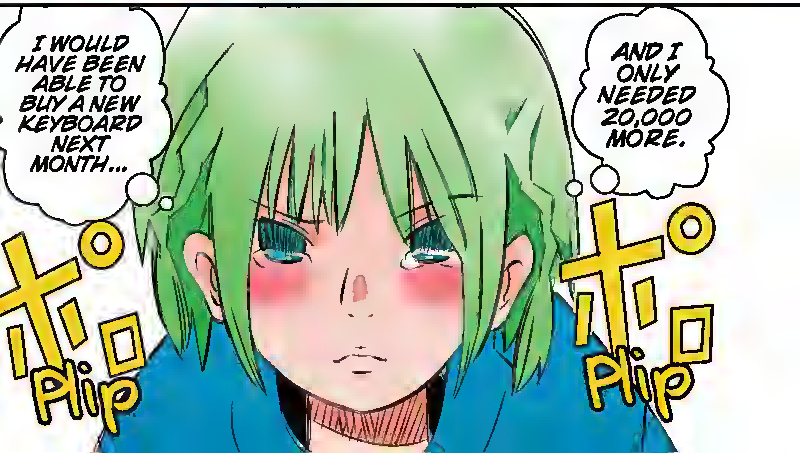
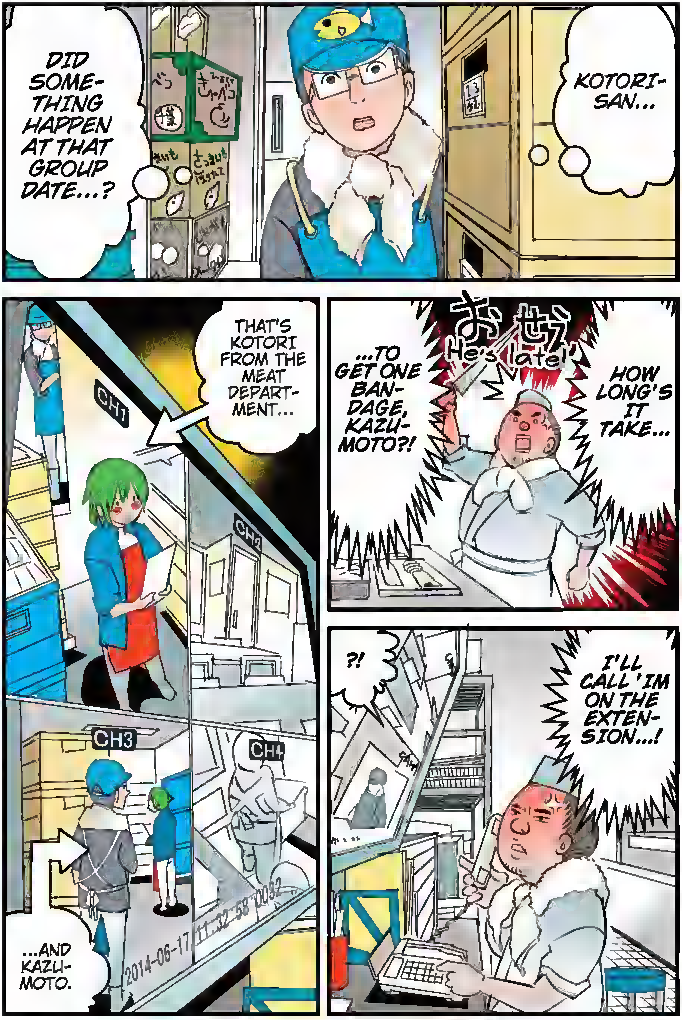

It's okay.
SO IF HE ASKS FOR YOU TO PAY HIM BACK, LET ME KNOW AND I'LL PAY HALF!
I KNEW THE CAT WAS HERE, BUT I STILL MADE YOU COME ALONG, EVEN WHEN YOU SAID YOU WOULD GO BACK...
sniff
sniff
...HER COWORKERS LOOKED PRETTY ANGRY, SO I'M SURE WORK HAS BEEN REALLY HARD FOR HER...
Hmph
Hmph
SUMIRE SAID THAT TO ME, BUT...
I WONDER IF THE MONEY I'VE SAVED UP TO BUY A NEW KEY-BOARD WILL COVER IT...
CMO
I WONDER HOW MUCH HE'LL HAVE ME PAY.

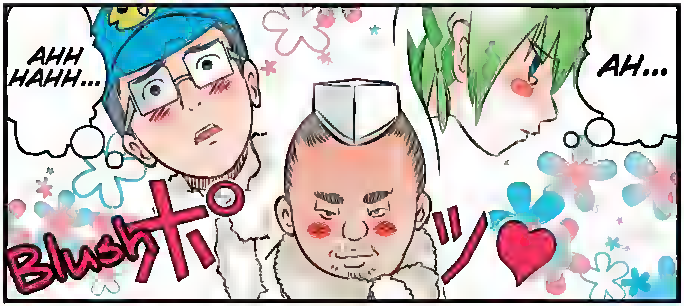

IN THE BREAK ROOM...
...KOTORI FROM THE MEAT DEPART-MENT WAS SAYING...
*KAZUMOTO-KUN, WHO APPEARED FIRST IN CHAPTER 4, AND WHO HAS A CRUSH ON KOTORI.
...THAT SHE WENT ON A GROUP DATE AND-
SLICE
ぱっ
OW!
WHAT'RE YA DOIN', KAZUMOTO, DON'T GET YOUR BLOOD IN THE FISH!!
Plip Plip
ポタポタ
CHEF... WE'RE OUT OF BAND-AGES
HUH?! GET SOME FROM STOR-AGE THEN!


Storage
Tmp
Tmp

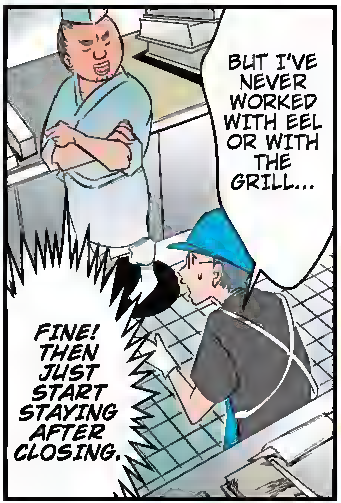

gasp
IT'S KOTORI-SAN!


I WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BUY A NEW KEYBOARD NEXT MONTH...
AND I ONLY NEEDED 20,000 MORE.
Plip
Plip

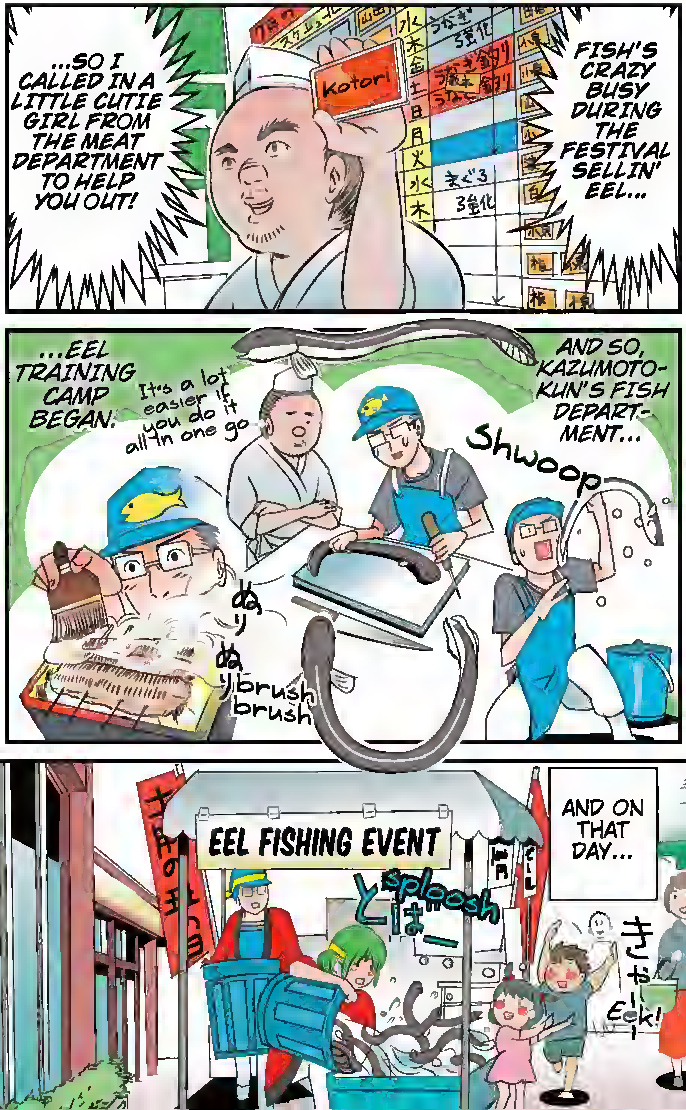

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN AT THAT GROUP DATE...?
KOTORI-SAN...
THAT'S KOTORI FROM THE MEAT DEPARTMENT...
CH1
CH2
CH3
CH4
...AND KAZUMOTO.
2014-06-17 11:32:58 2002
おせっ
He's late!
...TO GET ONE BANDAGE, KAZUMOTO?!
HOW LONG'S IT TAKE...
?!
I'LL CALL 'IM ON THE EXTENSION...!


AHH HAHH...
AH...
Blush ポッ

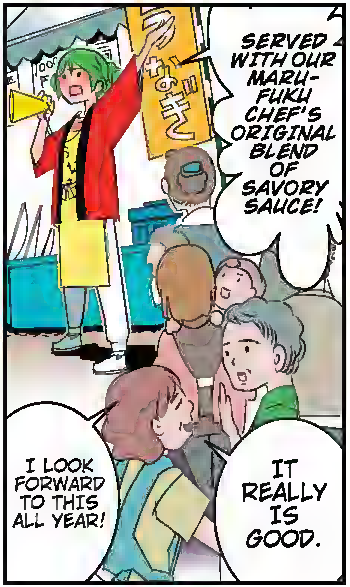
SO, AFTER CLOS-ING.

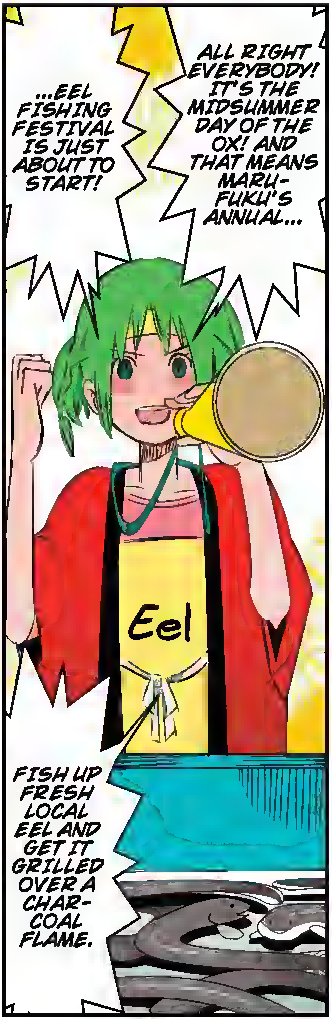

BUT I'VE NEVER WORKED WITH EEL OR WITH THE GRILL...
FINE! THEN JUST START STAYING AFTER CLOSING.

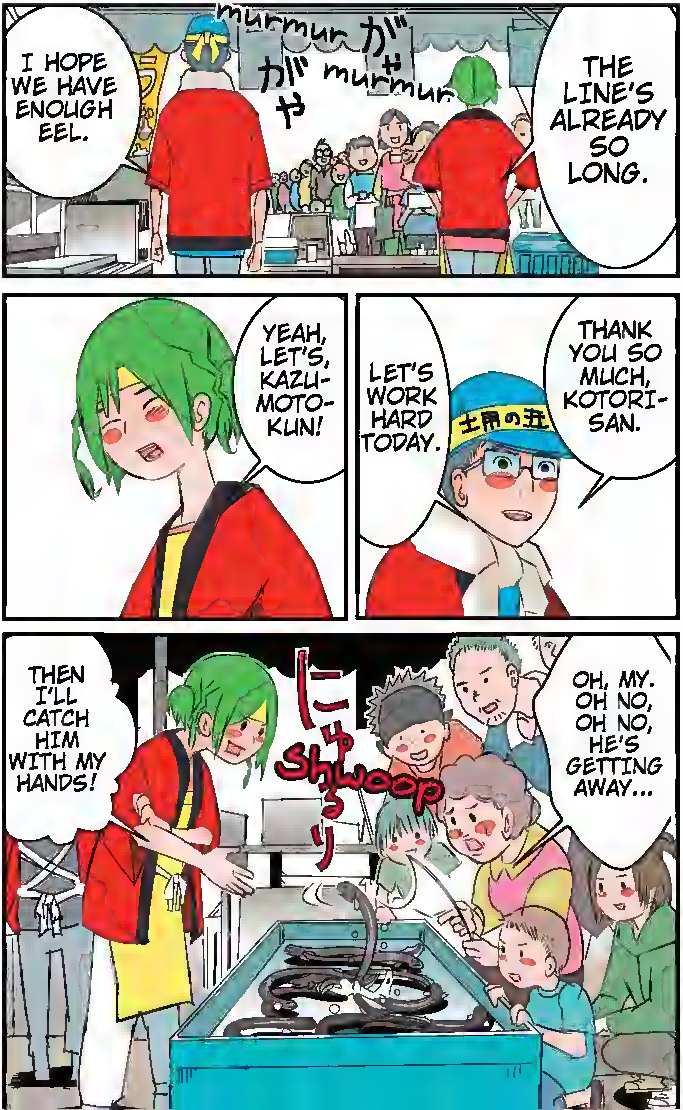
HUH?! YOU WANT ME TO...
...GRILL THE EEL AT NEXT MONTH'S EEL FISHING FESTI-VAL?!


...SO I CALLED IN A LITTLE CUTIE GIRL FROM THE MEAT DEPARTMENT TO HELP YOU OUT!
Kotori
FISH'S CRAZY BUSY DURING THE FESTIVAL SELLIN' EEL...
...EEL TRAINING CAMP BEGAN.
It's a lot easier if you do it all in one go
AND SO, KAZUMOTO-KUN'S FISH DEPART-MENT...
Shwoop
ゴリ
ゴリ
brush brush
AND ON THAT DAY...
EEL FISHING EVENT
とぽーん splooosh
きゃー Eek!

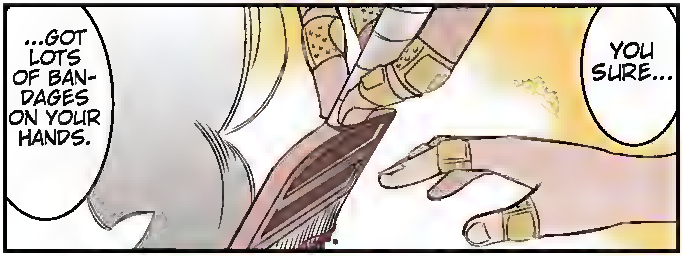
...YOU CAN GET EEL ON FRESH KOSHI-HIKARI RICE!
AND WITH JUST 1000 YEN...

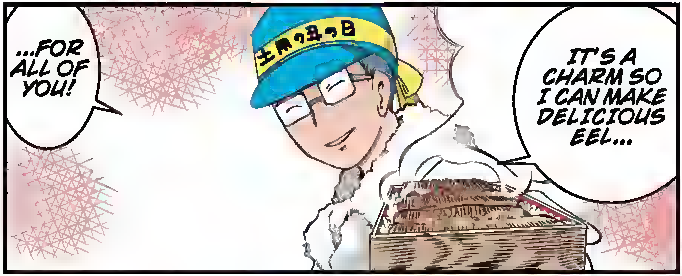

SERVED WITH OUR MARU-FUKU CHEF'S ORIGINAL BLEND OF SAVORY SAUCE!
I LOOK FORWARD TO THIS ALL YEAR!
IT REALLY IS GOOD.

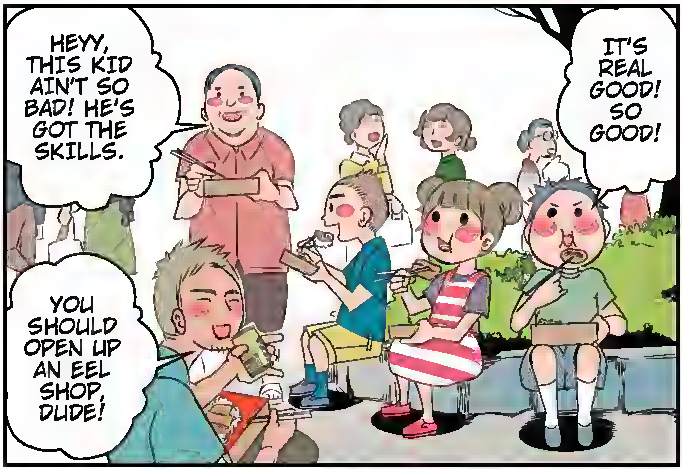

...EEL FISHING FESTIVAL IS JUST ABOUT TO START!
ALL RIGHT EVERYBODY! IT'S THE MIDSUMMER DAY OF THE OX! AND THAT MEANS MARU-FUKU'S ANNUAL...
Eel
FISH UP FRESH LOCAL EEL AND GET IT GRILLED OVER A CHAR-COAL FLAME.

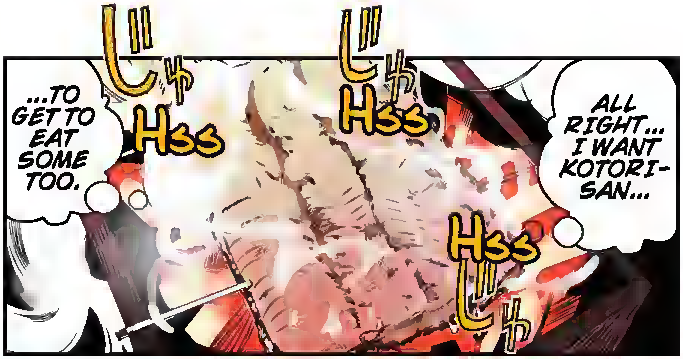

I HOPE WE HAVE ENOUGH EEL.
murmur
murmur
THE LINE'S ALREADY SO LONG.
YEAH, LET'S, KAZU-MOTO-KUN!
LET'S WORK HARD TODAY.
土用の丑
THANK YOU SO MUCH, KOTORI-SAN.
THEN I'LL CATCH HIM WITH MY HANDS!
にゅるり
Shwoop
OH, MY. OH NO, OH NO, HE'S GETTING AWAY...

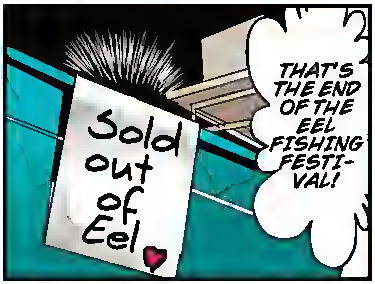
AND!
WOAH...
にゅるり
Shloop
ぱちぱち
plsh
plsh
HEY, MIS-TER!

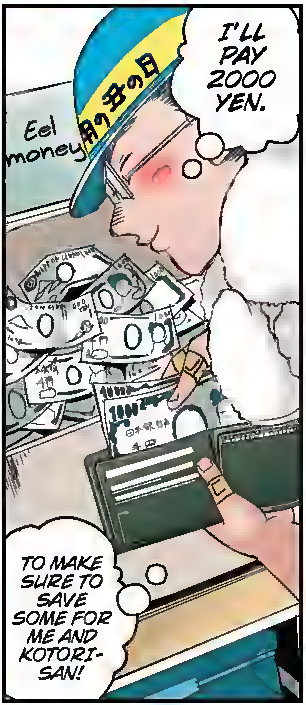

...GOT LOTS OF BAN-DAGES ON YOUR HANDS.
YOU SURE...


土用の丑の日
...FOR ALL OF YOU!
IT'S A CHARM SO I CAN MAKE DELICIOUS EEL...

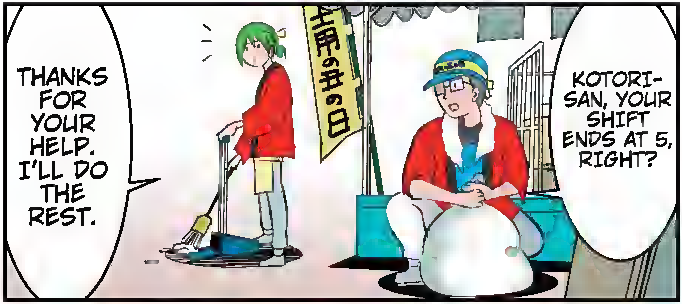

HEYY, THIS KID AIN'T SO BAD! HE'S GOT THE SKILLS.
IT'S REAL GOOD! SO GOOD!
YOU SHOULD OPEN UP AN EEL SHOP, DUDE!

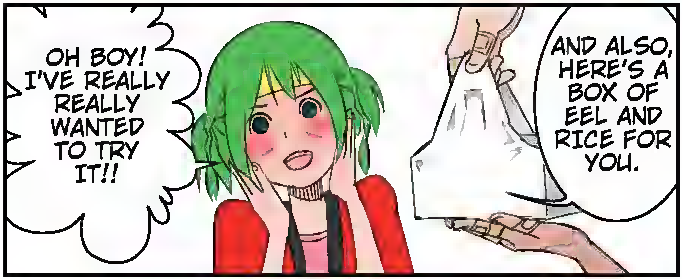

じゅ
Hss
じゅ
Hss
Hss
じゅ
...TO GET TO EAT SOME TOO.
ALL RIGHT... I WANT KOTORI-SAN...


Sold out of Eel
THAT'S THE END OF THE EEL FISHING FESTI-VAL!

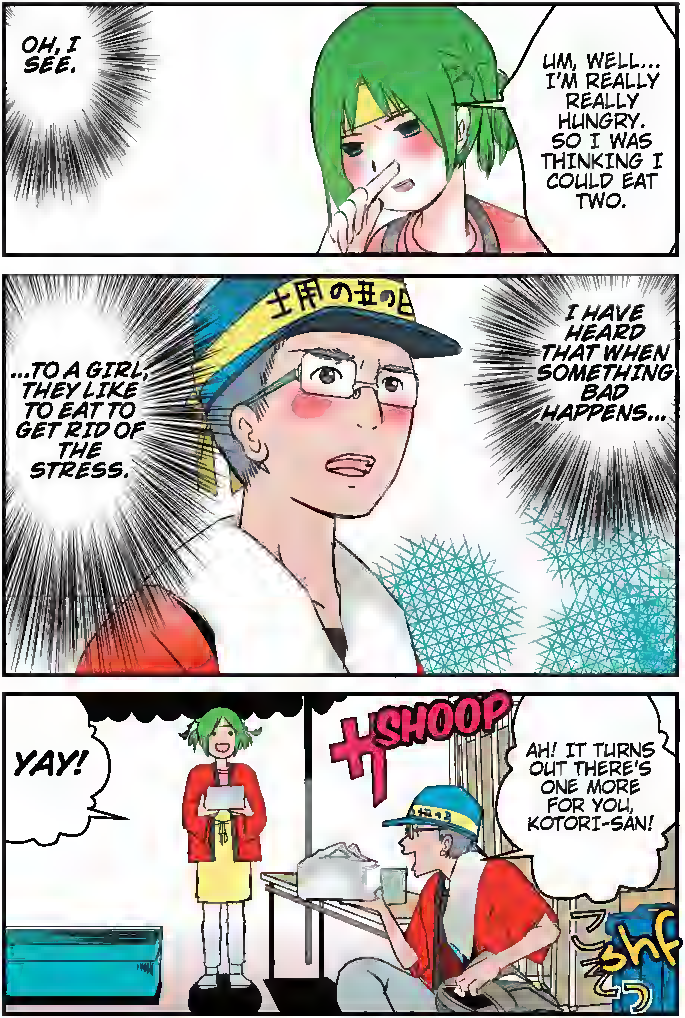

Eel money
I'LL PAY 2000 YEN.
TO MAKE SURE TO SAVE SOME FOR ME AND KOTORI-SAN!

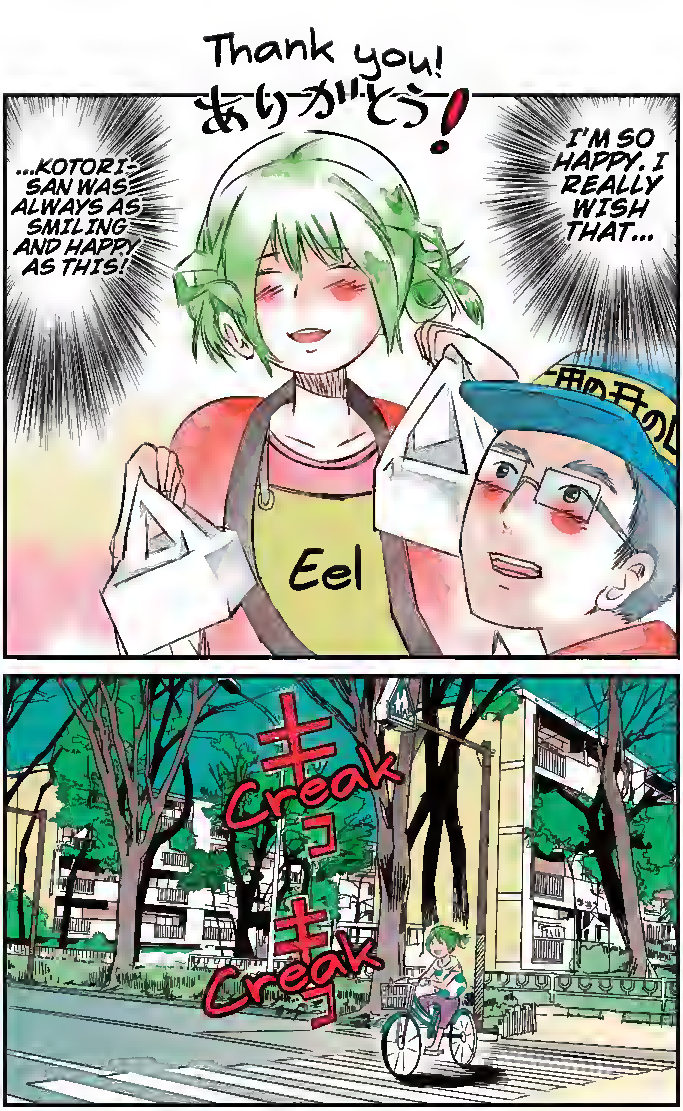
Line up
ALL RIGHT! THERE'S MORE GRILL SUPPLIES IN THE STORE, SO GO ON IN!

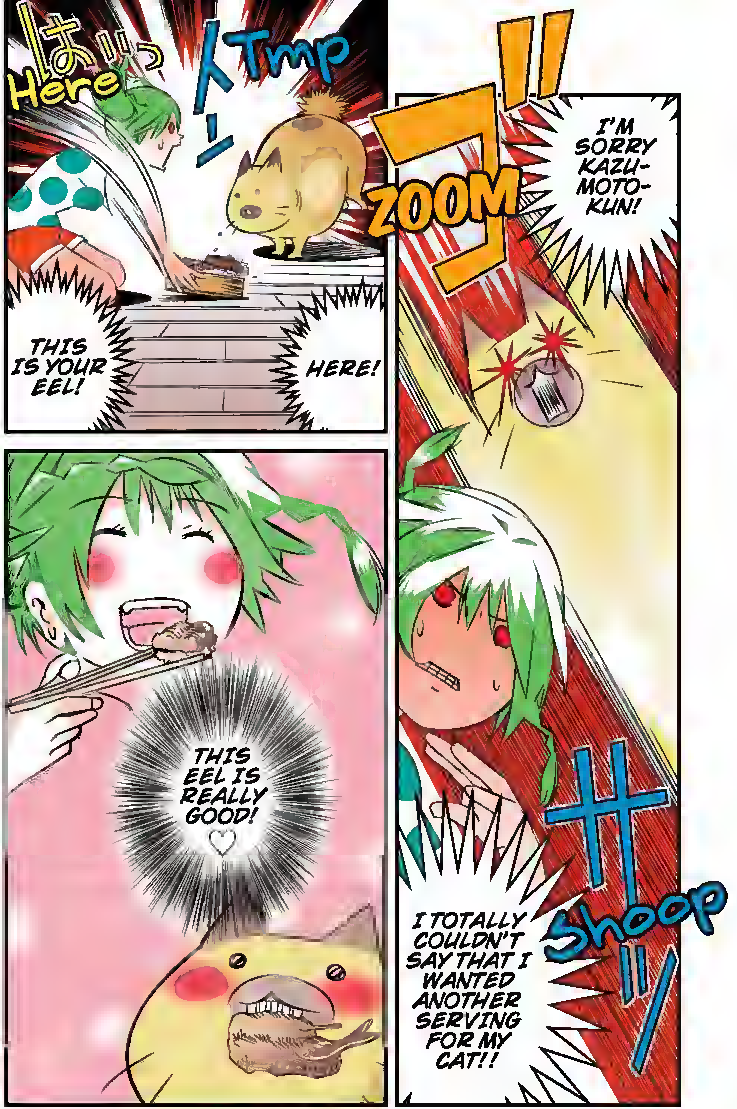

KOTORI-SAN, YOUR SHIFT ENDS AT 5, RIGHT?
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP. I'LL DO THE REST.


AND ALSO, HERE'S A BOX OF EEL AND RICE FOR YOU.
OH BOY! I'VE REALLY REALLY WANTED TO TRY IT!!

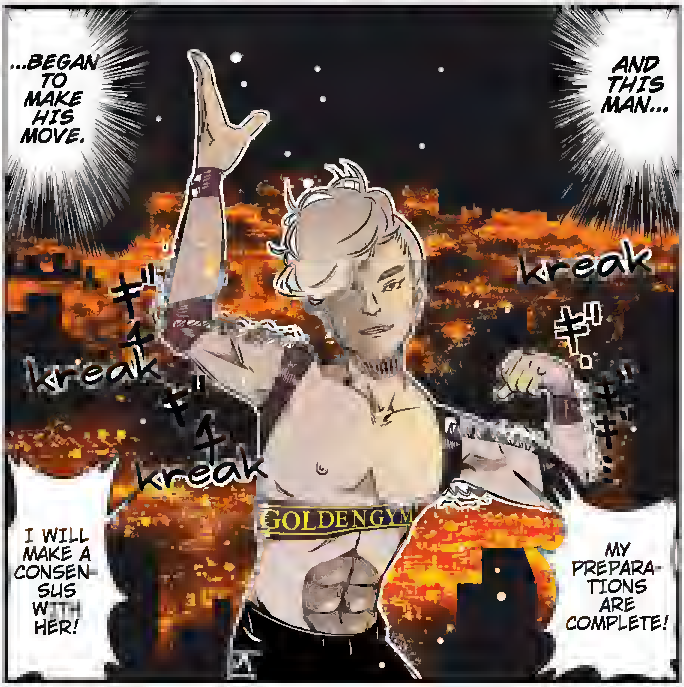
LET ME GET YOU YOUR 1000 YEN.
NO, NO, IT'S LEFTOVERS, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY.
OH, REALLY ?!
AH, IF IT'S LEFT OVER, THEN... IS THERE ONE MORE?
HUH ?


OH, I SEE.
UM, WELL... I'M REALLY REALLY HUNGRY. SO I WAS THINKING I COULD EAT TWO.
...TO A GIRL, THEY LIKE TO EAT TO GET RID OF THE STRESS.
I HAVE HEARD THAT WHEN SOMETHING BAD HAPPENS...
YAY!
SHOOP
AH! IT TURNS OUT THERE'S ONE MORE FOR YOU, KOTORI-SAN!


Thank you!
ありがとう!
...KOTORI-SAN WAS ALWAYS AS SMILING AND HAPPY AS THIS!
I'M SO HAPPY. I REALLY WISH THAT...
Eel
キコ
Creak
キコ
Creak


Here
Tmp
THIS IS YOUR EEL!
HERE!
ZOOM
I'M SORRY KAZU-MOTO-KUN!
Shoop
I TOTALLY COULDN'T SAY THAT I WANTED ANOTHER SERVING FOR MY CAT!!
THIS EEL IS REALLY GOOD!

...THE RESIDENTS WERE ENJOYING THE EEL THAT KAZUMOTO-KUN MADE WITH LOVE AND EFFORT.
Real good!
Real good!
Real good!
ALL OVER KISOZAKI APARTMENTS ON THE NIGHT OF MIDSUMMER DAY OF THE OX...



FINALLY, THE BUFF AND MACHO CMO'S COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT IS GETTING STARTED!

MangaBox

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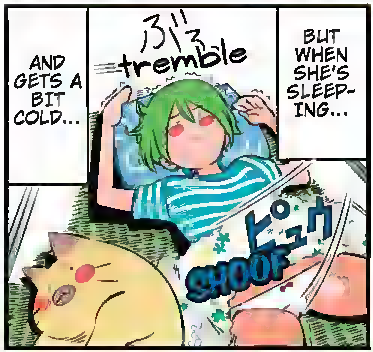
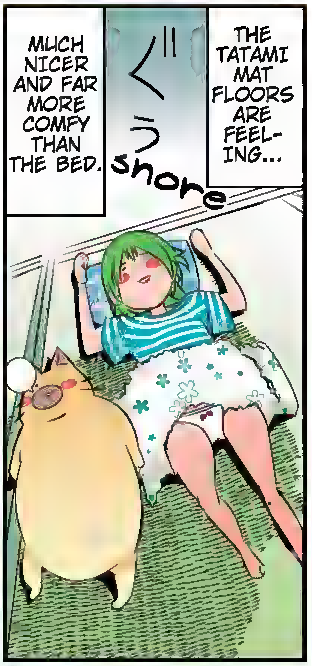
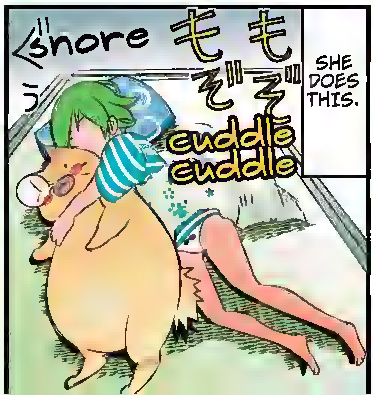
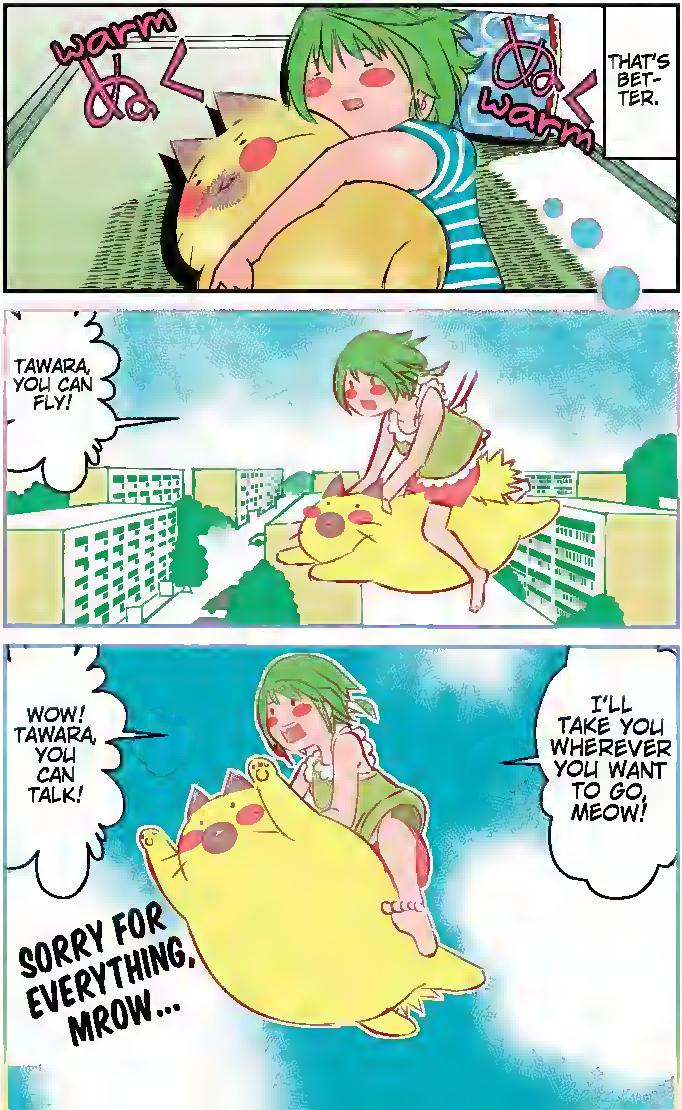
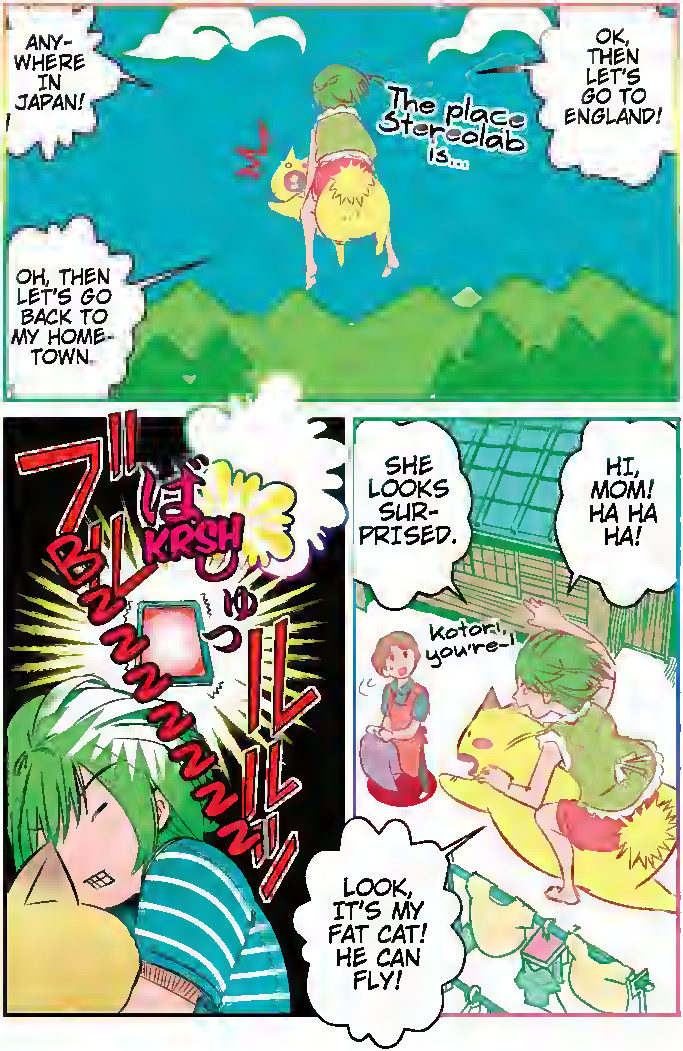
AT NIGHT-TIME LATELY.
IT'S BEEN VERY HUMID...

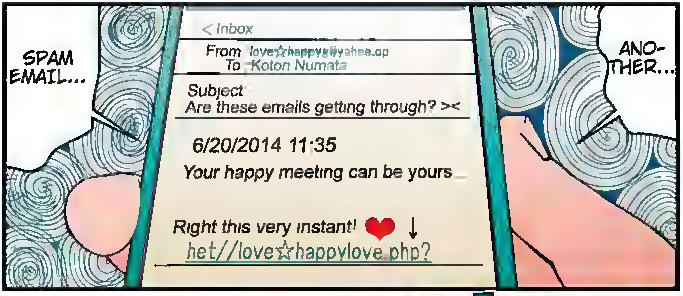

AND GETS A BIT COLD...
tremble
BUT WHEN SHE'S SLEEP-ING...
SHOOF

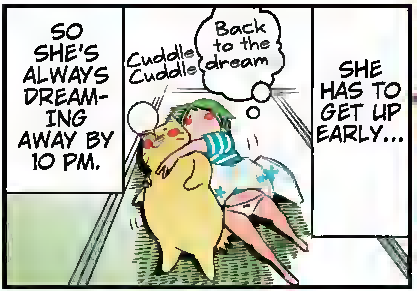

MUCH NICER AND FAR MORE COMFY THAN THE BED.
shore
THE TATAMI MAT FLOORS ARE FEEL-ING...


shore
SHE DOES THIS.
cuddle cuddle


warm
warm
THAT'S BET-TER.
TAWARA, YOU CAN FLY!
WOW! TAWARA, YOU CAN TALK!
I'LL TAKE YOU WHEREVER YOU WANT TO GO, MEOW!
SORRY FOR EVERYTHING, MROW...

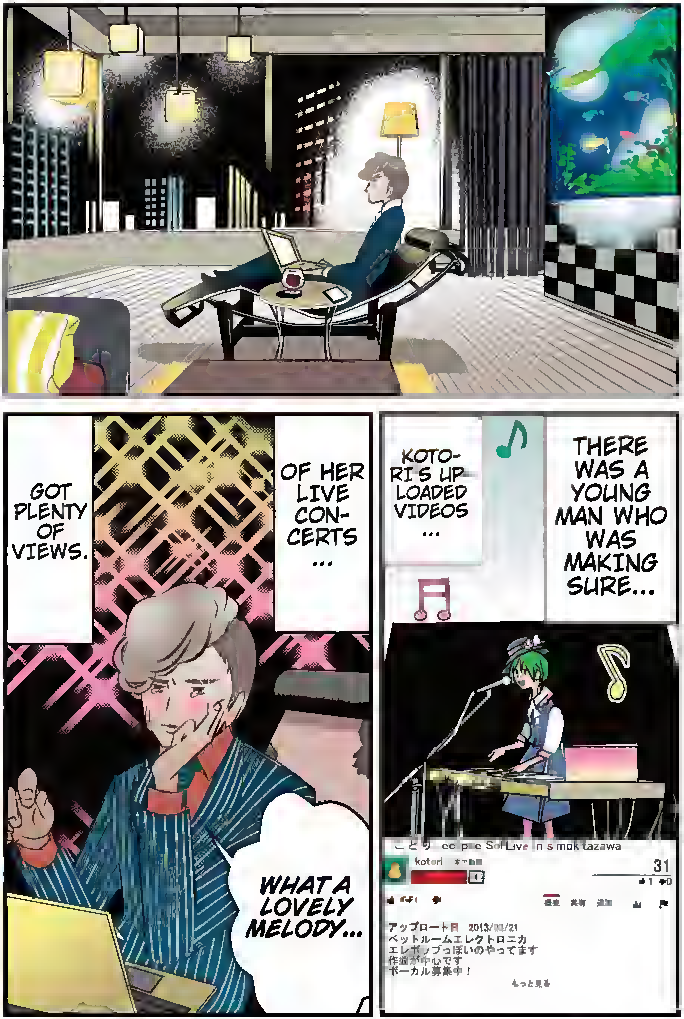

ANY-WHERE IN JAPAN!
The place Stereolab is...
OK, THEN LET'S GO TO ENGLAND!
OH, THEN LET'S GO BACK TO MY HOME-TOWN.
BZZZ

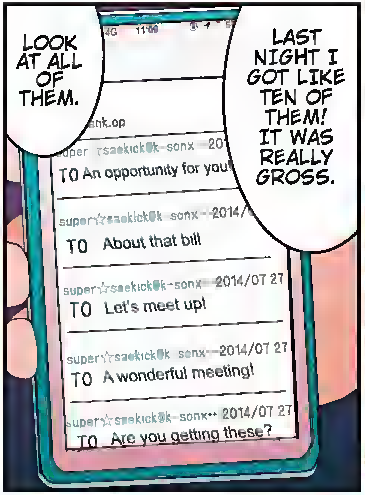

SPAM EMAIL...
< Inbox
From love☆happy☆yahoo.co
To Koton Numata
Subject
Are these emails getting through? ><
6/20/2014 11:35
Your happy meeting can be yours
Right this very instant!
het//love☆happylove.php?
ANO-THER...

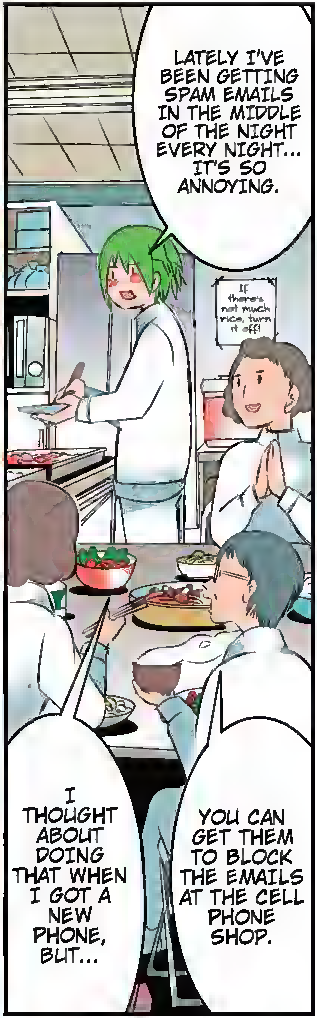

SO SHE'S ALWAYS DREAM-ING AWAY BY 10 PM.
Cuddle Cuddle
Back to the dream
SHE HAS TO GET UP EARLY...

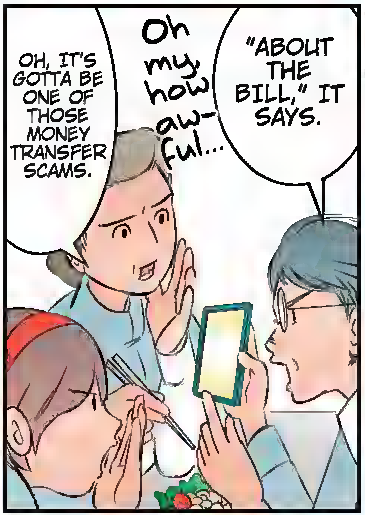
Tess
Tink
GO AWAY!
KOTORI'S GRUMPY WHEN SHE'S WOKEN UP.

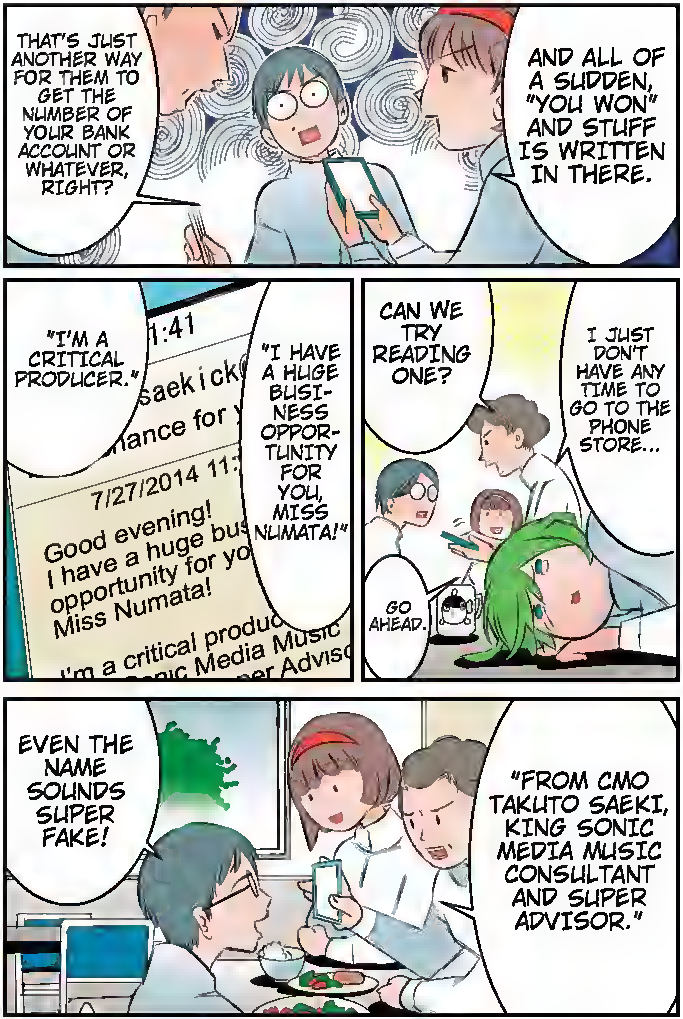
AT THAT TIME...

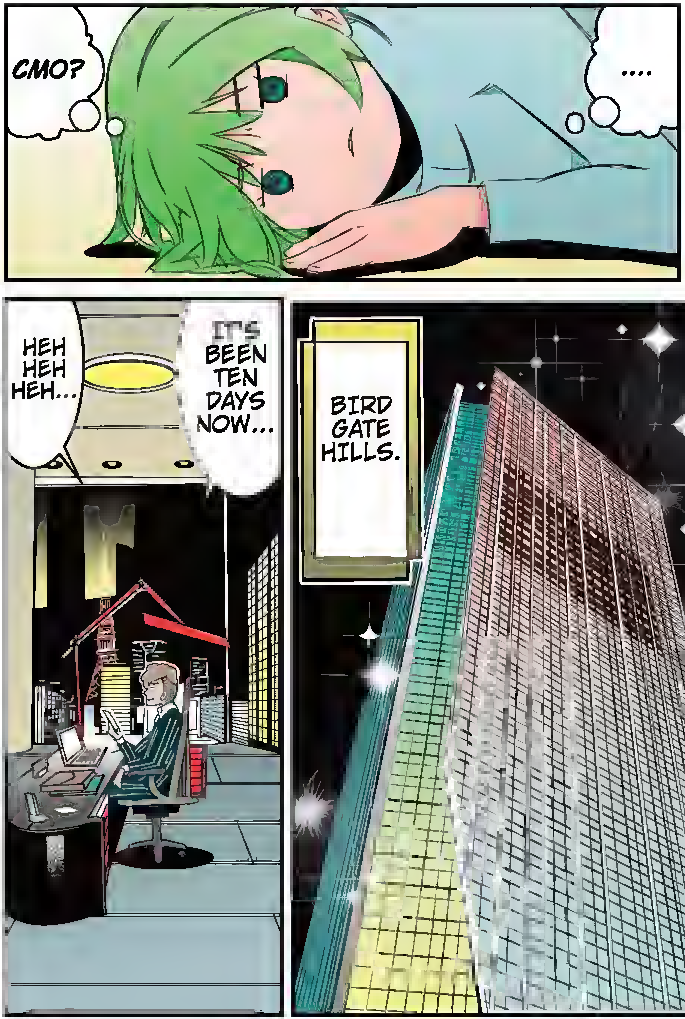

THERE WAS A YOUNG MAN WHO WAS MAKING SURE...
KOTO-RI'S UP-LOADED VIDEOS ...
OF HER LIVE CON-CERTS ...
GOT PLENTY OF VIEWS.
WHAT A LOVELY MELODY...
kotori
31
アップロード日 2013/01/21
ベットルームエレクトロニカ
エレポップっぽいのやってます
作業がやっです
ボーカル募集中！
もっと見る

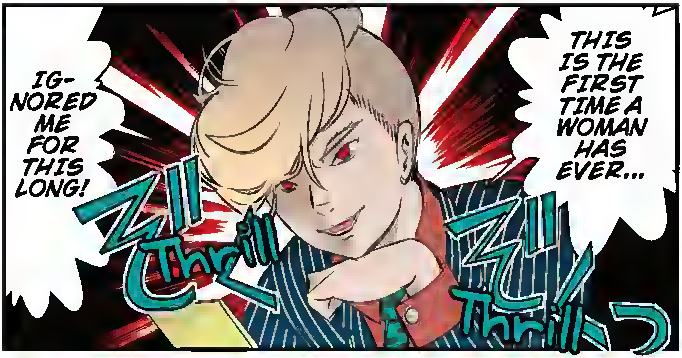

LOOK AT ALL OF THEM.
LAST NIGHT I GOT LIKE TEN OF THEM! IT WAS REALLY GROSS.
TO An opportunity for you!
TO About that bill
TO Let's meet up!
TO A wonderful meeting!
TO Are you getting these?


LATELY I'VE BEEN GETTING SPAM EMAILS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT EVERY NIGHT... IT'S SO ANNOYING.
If there's not much rice, turn it off!
I THOUGHT ABOUT DOING THAT WHEN I GOT A NEW PHONE, BUT...
YOU CAN GET THEM TO BLOCK THE EMAILS AT THE CELL PHONE SHOP.

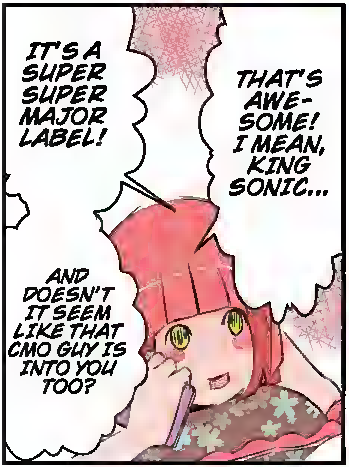

OH, IT'S GOTTA BE ONE OF THOSE MONEY TRANSFER SCAMS.
Oh my, how awful...
"ABOUT THE BILL," IT SAYS.

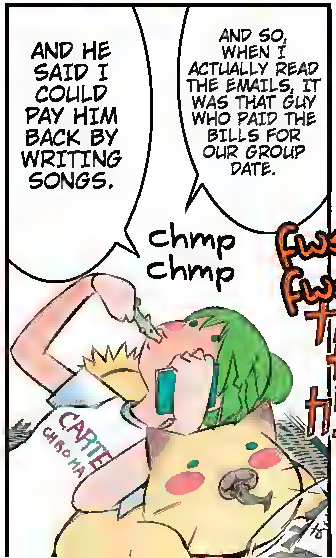

THAT'S JUST ANOTHER WAY FOR THEM TO GET THE NUMBER OF YOUR BANK ACCOUNT OR WHATEVER, RIGHT?
AND ALL OF A SUDDEN, "YOU WON" AND STUFF IS WRITTEN IN THERE.
"I'M A CRITICAL PRODUCER."
"I HAVE A HUGE BUSI-NESS OPPOR-TUNITY FOR YOU, MISS NUMATA!"
7/27/2014
Good evening!
Miss Numata!
CAN WE TRY READING ONE?
I JUST DON'T HAVE ANY TIME TO GO TO THE PHONE STORE...
GO AHEAD.
EVEN THE NAME SOUNDS SUPER FAKE!
"FROM CMO TAKUTO SAEKI, KING SONIC MEDIA MUSIC CONSULTANT AND SUPER ADVISOR."


CMO?
....
HEH HEH HEH...
IT'S BEEN TEN DAYS NOW...
BIRD GATE HILLS.

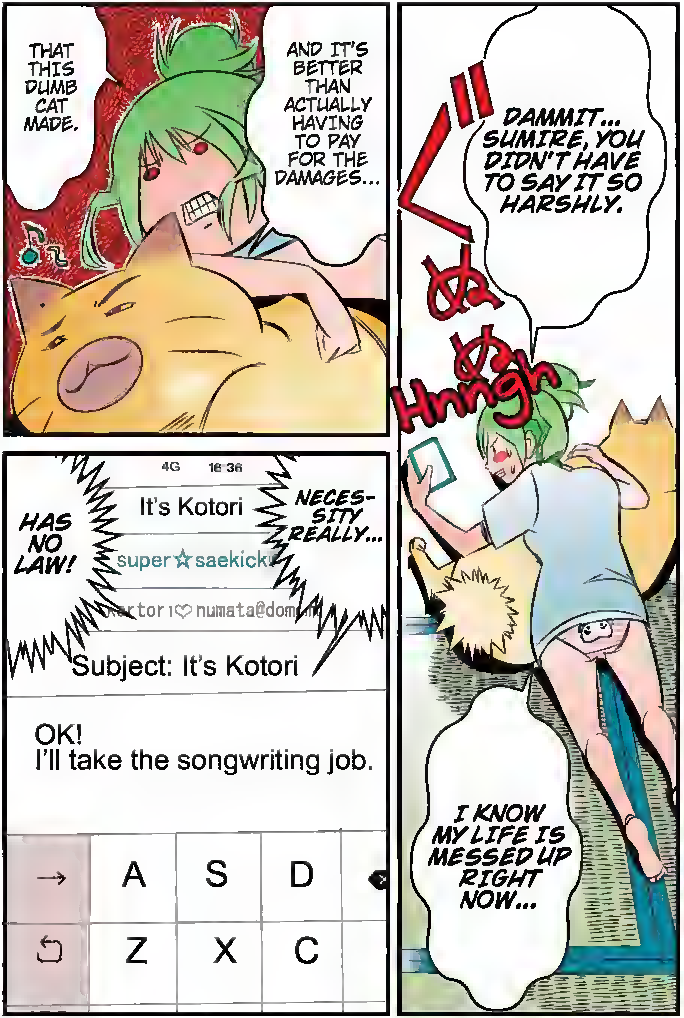

IG-NORED ME FOR THIS LONG!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME A WOMAN HAS EVER...
Zll Thrill
Zll Thrill

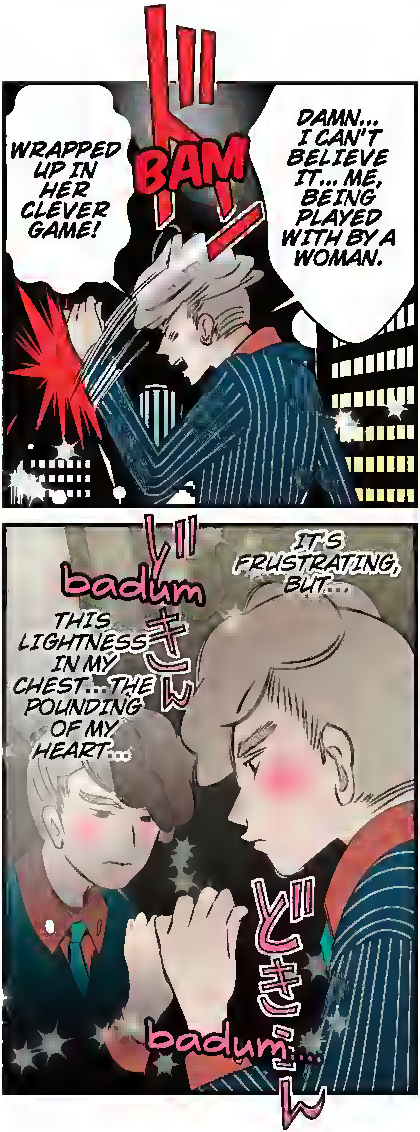
At the same time


IT'S A SUPER SUPER MAJOR LABEL!
THAT'S AWE-SOME! I MEAN, KING SONIC...
AND DOESN'T IT SEEM LIKE THAT CMO GUY IS INTO YOU TOO?

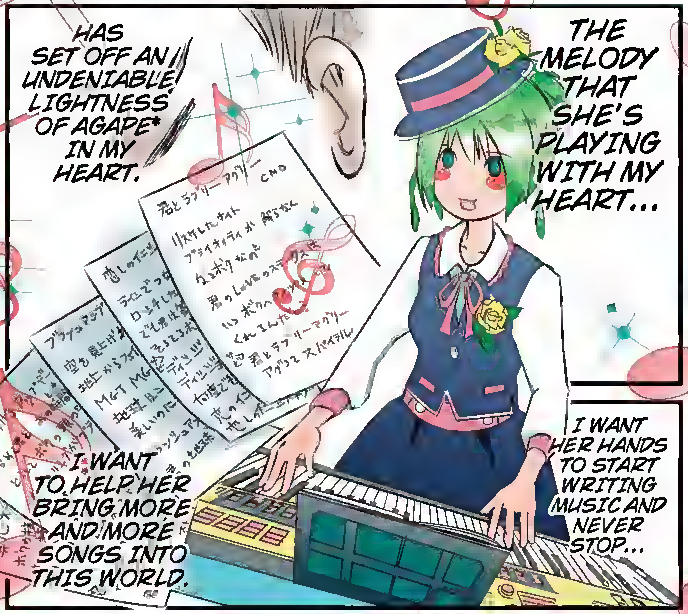

AND HE SAID I COULD PAY HIM BACK BY WRITING SONGS.
AND SO, WHEN I ACTUALLY READ THE EMAILS, IT WAS THAT GUY WHO PAID THE BILLS FOR OUR GROUP DATE.
chmp chmp
fwsh fwsh
CAPITE

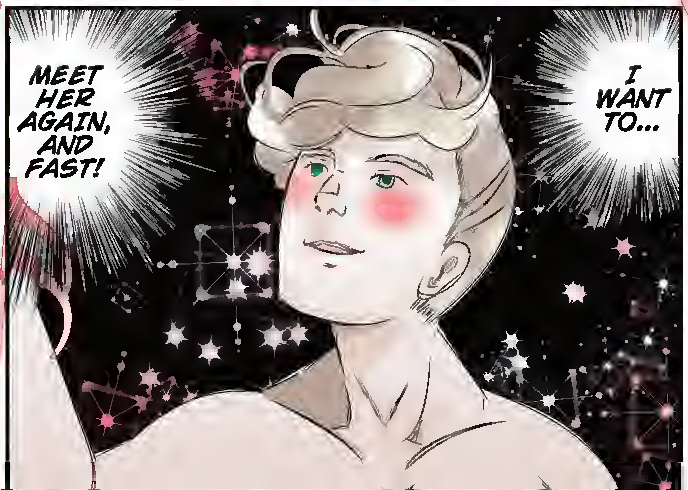
BUT IF HE HAS SOME SORT OF ULTERIOR MOTIVE, THAT KIND OF SELF INTEREST IS PRETTY GROSS, RIGHT?
フッ Fwsh
chew chew
CARTEE
CHROMA
WELL, IF HE'S INTO MY MUSIC, THEN I'M HAPPY...
IF YOU DID THAT, YOU'D JUST BE LETTING YOUR FUTURE LIFE SLIP OUT OF YOUR FINGERS.
ピシ SHING
I'D HAVE TO JUST TURN A GUY LIKE THAT DOWN RIGHT AWAY, RIGHT...
ポロ Plop
dried sardine
DO YOU WANT TO FALL INTO THE TRAP OF JUST WORKING PART-TIME AND TAKING CARE OF THAT CAT, DAY IN AND DAY OUT?!

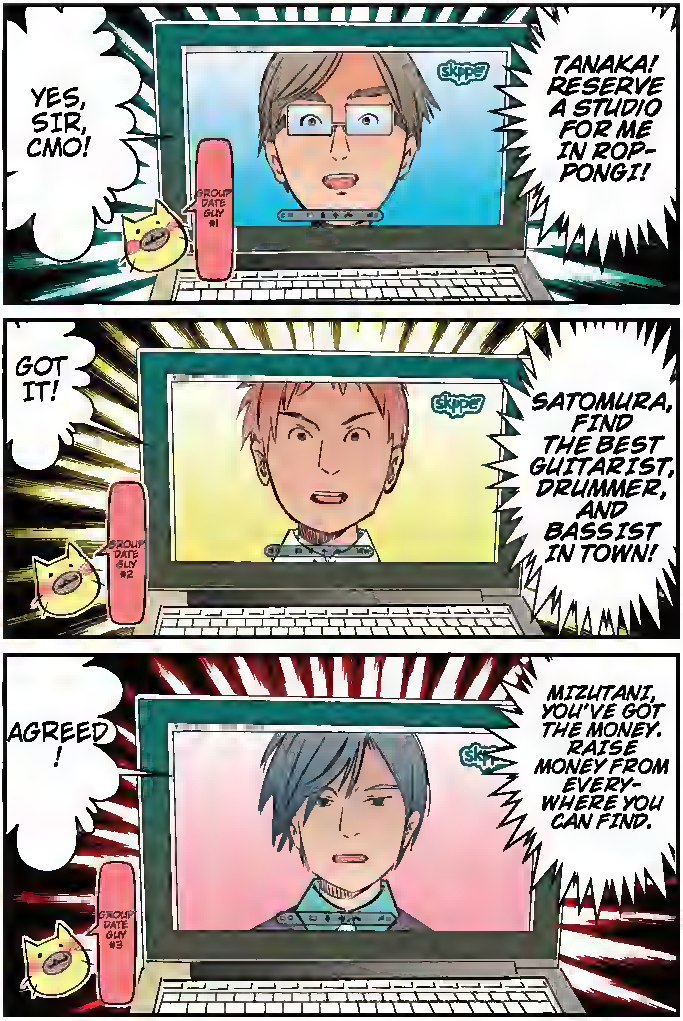

THAT THIS DUMB CAT MADE.
AND IT'S BETTER THAN ACTUALLY HAVING TO PAY FOR THE DAMAGES...
DAMMIT... SUMIRE, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO SAY IT SO HARSHLY.
Hnngh
I KNOW MY LIFE IS MESSED UP RIGHT NOW...
4G 16:36
It's Kotori
HAS NO LAW!
NECES-SITY REALLY...
super☆saekick
Subject: It's Kotori
OK!
I'll take the songwriting job.
A S D
Z X C

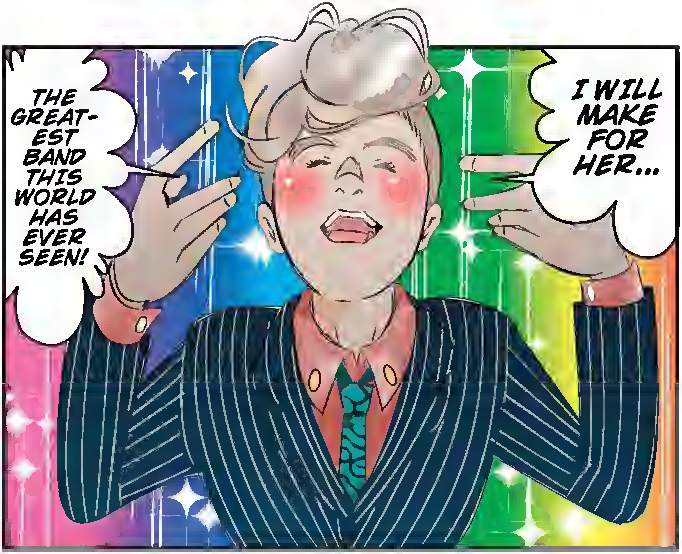

I GOT HER EMAIL ACCEPTING THE TERMS!
DAMN... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... ME, BEING PLAYED WITH BY A WOMAN.
BAM
WRAPPED UP IN HER CLEVER GAME!
IT'S FRUSTRATING, BUT...
badum
THIS LIGHTNESS IN MY CHEST... THE POUNDING OF MY HEART...
badum...

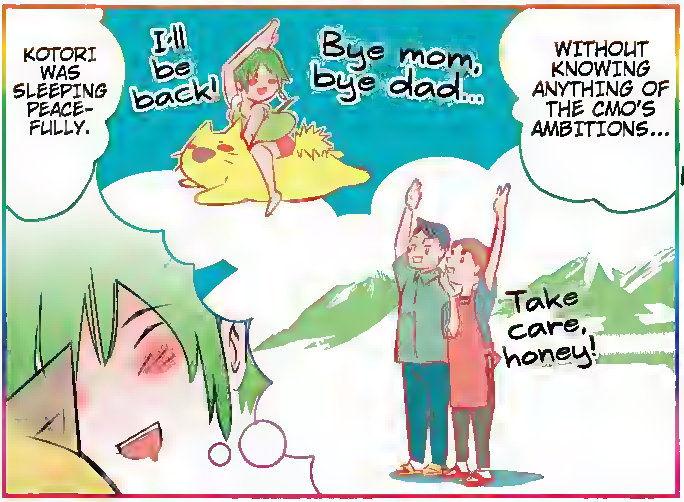
*CONCEPT OF LOVE WITHOUT NEEDING ANYTHING IN RETURN


HAS SET OFF AN UNDENIABLE LIGHTNESS OF AGAPE* IN MY HEART.
THE MELODY THAT SHE'S PLAYING WITH MY HEART...
I WANT TO HELP HER BRING MORE AND MORE SONGS INTO THIS WORLD.
I WANT HER HANDS TO START WRITING MUSIC AND NEVER STOP...

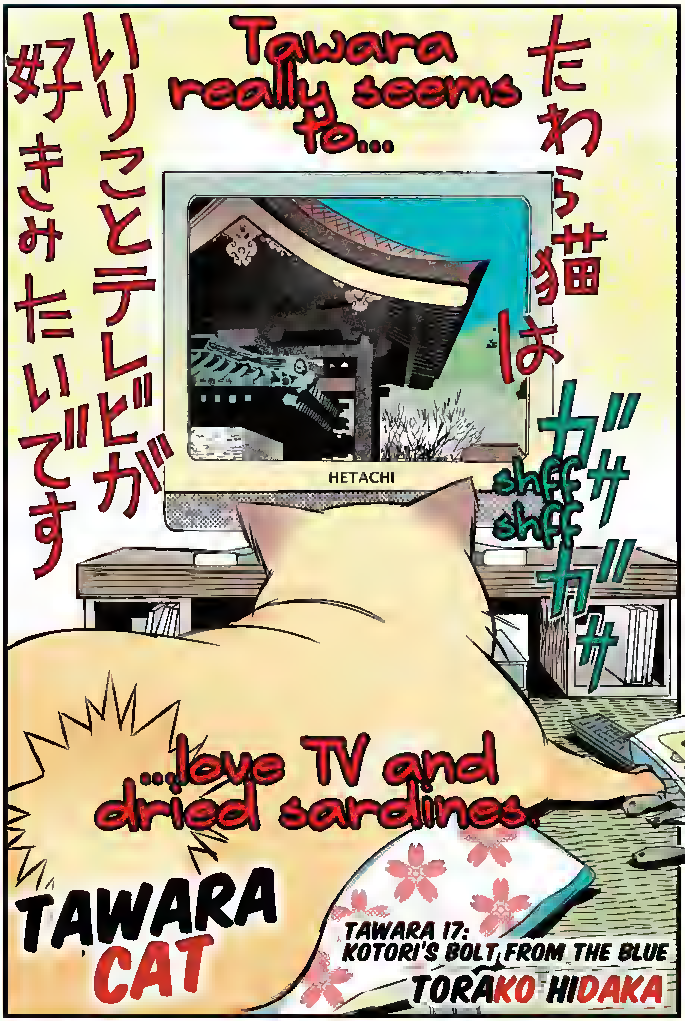



YES, SIR, CMO!
GROUP DATE GUY #1
skype
TANAKA! RESERVE A STUDIO FOR ME IN ROP-PONGI!
GOT IT!
GROUP DATE GUY #2
skype
SATOMURA, FIND THE BEST GUITARIST, DRUMMER, AND BASSIST IN TOWN!
AGREED!
GROUP DATE GUY #3
skype
MIZUTANI, YOU'VE GOT THE MONEY. RAISE MONEY FROM EVERY-WHERE YOU CAN FIND.


THE GREATEST BAND THIS WORLD HAS EVER SEEN!
I WILL MAKE FOR HER...


KOTORI WAS SLEEPING PEACEFULLY.
I'll be back!
Bye mom, bye dad...
WITHOUT KNOWING ANYTHING OF THE CMO'S AMBITIONS...
Take care, honey!
KOTORI'S TAKEN A BIG LEAP FORWARD! WILL HER DREAMS FINALLY COME TRUE?!

MangaBox



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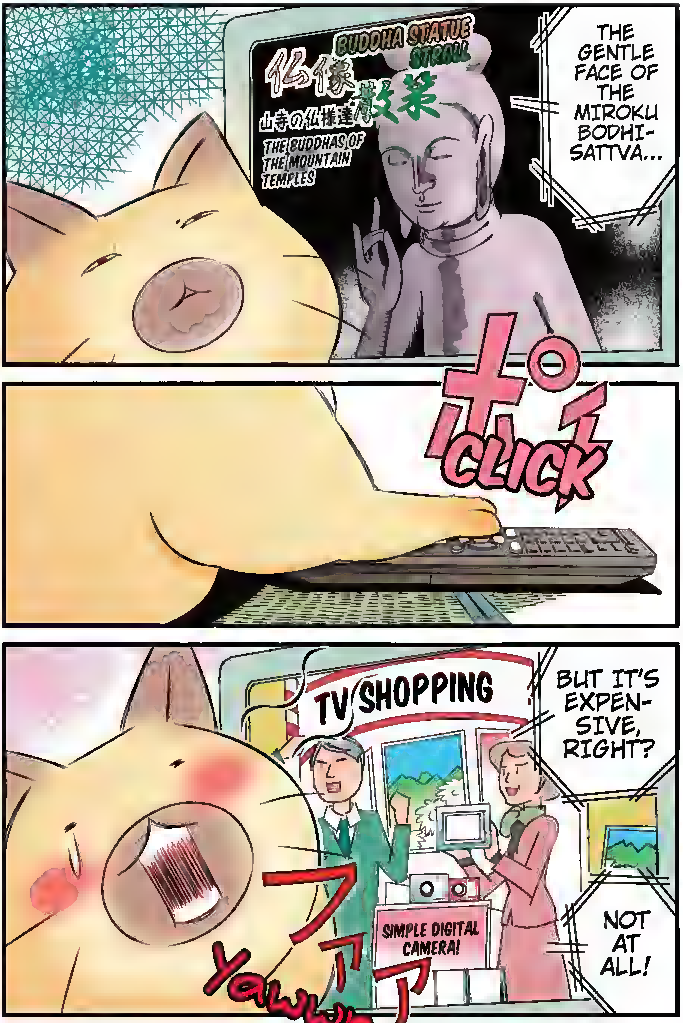
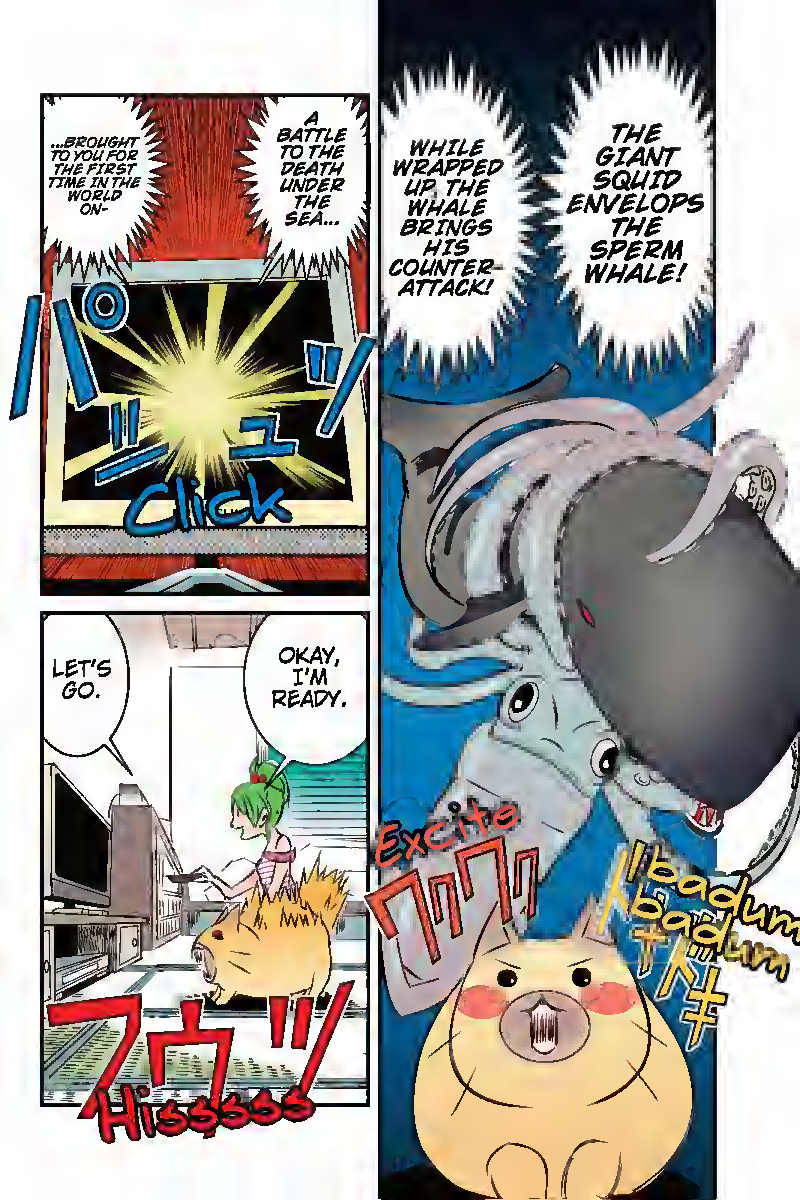
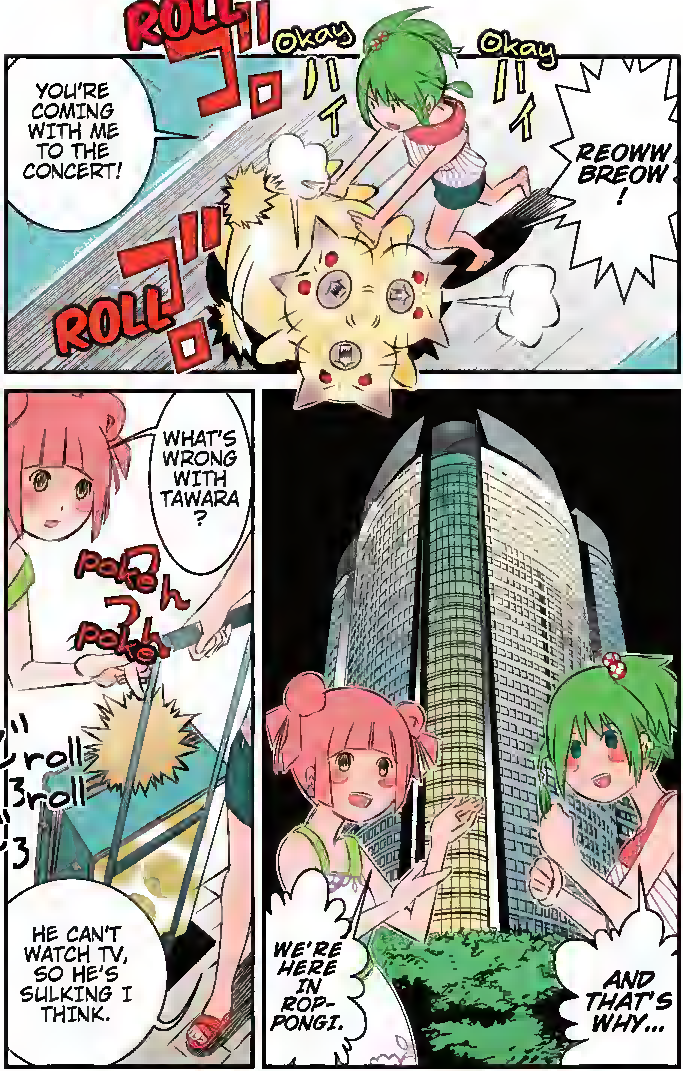
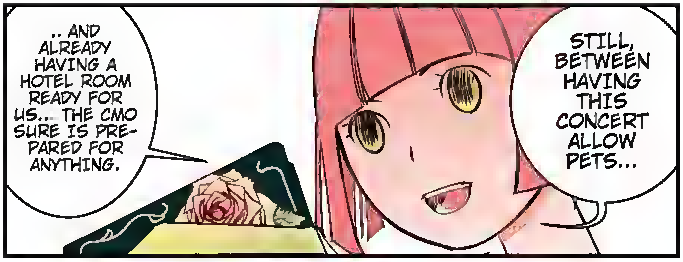


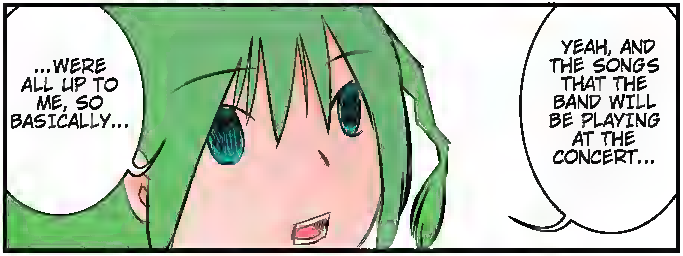
THIS STORY IS FICTIONAL, AND COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO REAL PEOPLE, GROUPS, OR EVENTS.

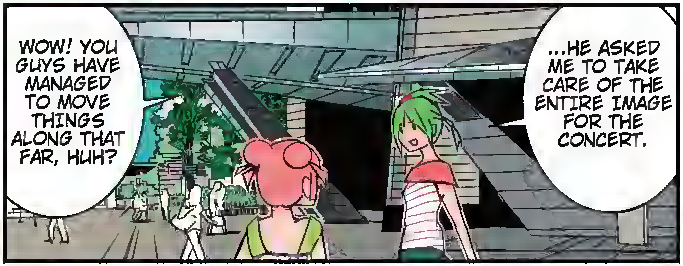
ポチ
CLICK
THE FIRST EXHIBITION BATTLE BETWEEN A SPERM WHALE AND A GIANT SQUID!
海中巨大生物を追え！
COME FOR THE MASSIVE DEEP-SEA CREATURES!

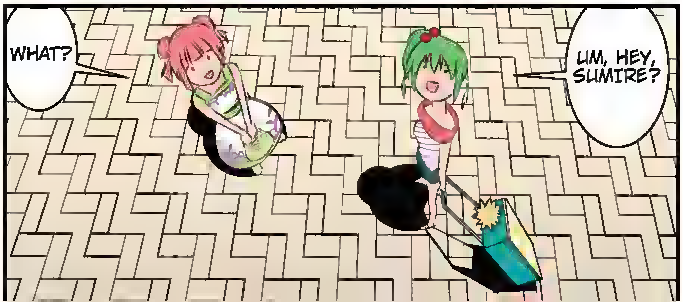

...BROUGHT TO YOU FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE WORLD ON-
A BATTLE TO THE DEATH UNDER THE SEA...
Click
WHILE WRAPPED UP, THE WHALE BRINGS HIS COUNTER-ATTACK!
THE GIANT SQUID ENVELOPS THE SPERM WHALE!
Excite
badum badum
LET'S GO.
OKAY, I'M READY.
Hissss

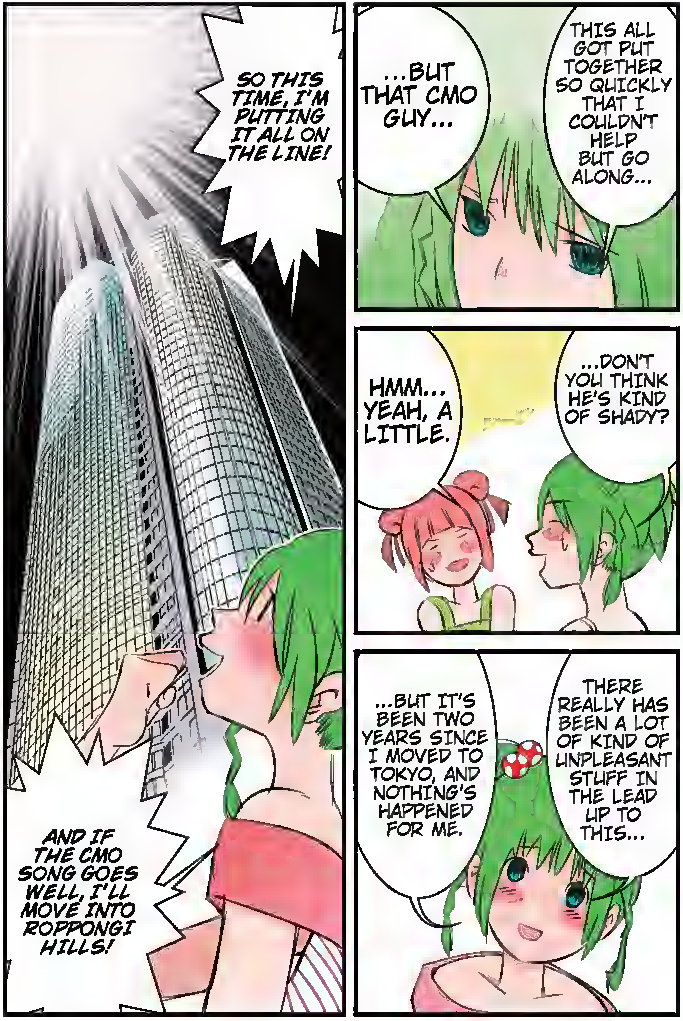

ROLL
ROLL
Okay
Okay
YOU'RE COMING WITH ME TO THE CONCERT!
REOWW BREOW!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH TAWARA?
Poke
Poke
roll
roll
HE CAN'T WATCH TV, SO HE'S SULKING I THINK.
WE'RE HERE IN ROPPONGI.
AND THAT'S WHY...

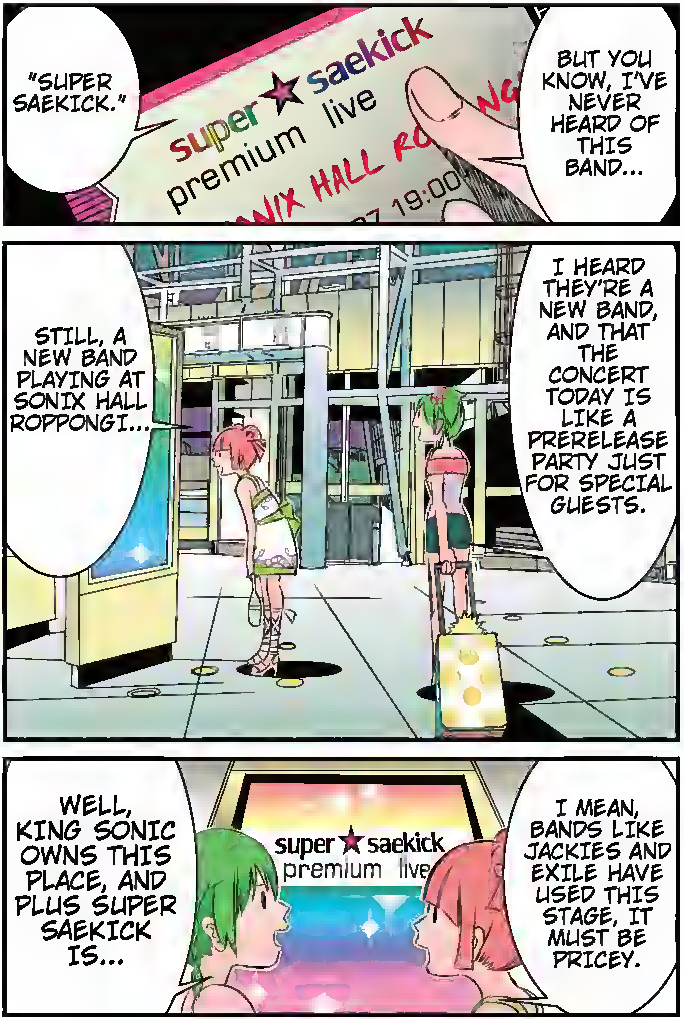

.. AND ALREADY HAVING A HOTEL ROOM READY FOR US... THE CMO SURE IS PREPARED FOR ANYTHING.
STILL, BETWEEN HAVING THIS CONCERT ALLOW PETS...

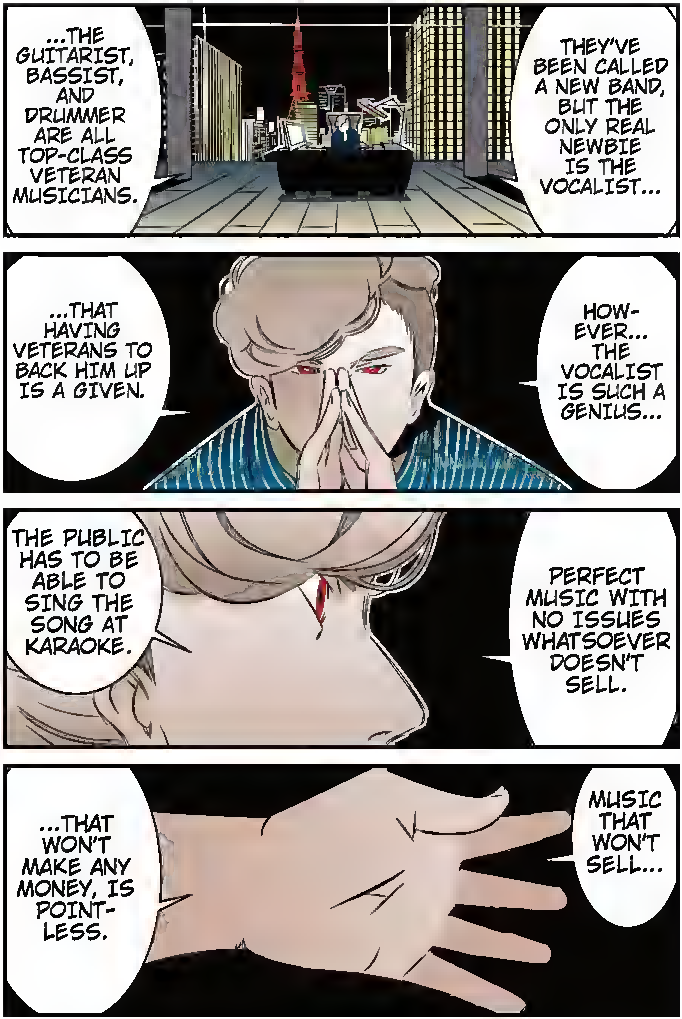

...WERE ALL UP TO ME, SO BASICALLY...
YEAH, AND THE SONGS THAT THE BAND WILL BE PLAYING AT THE CONCERT...

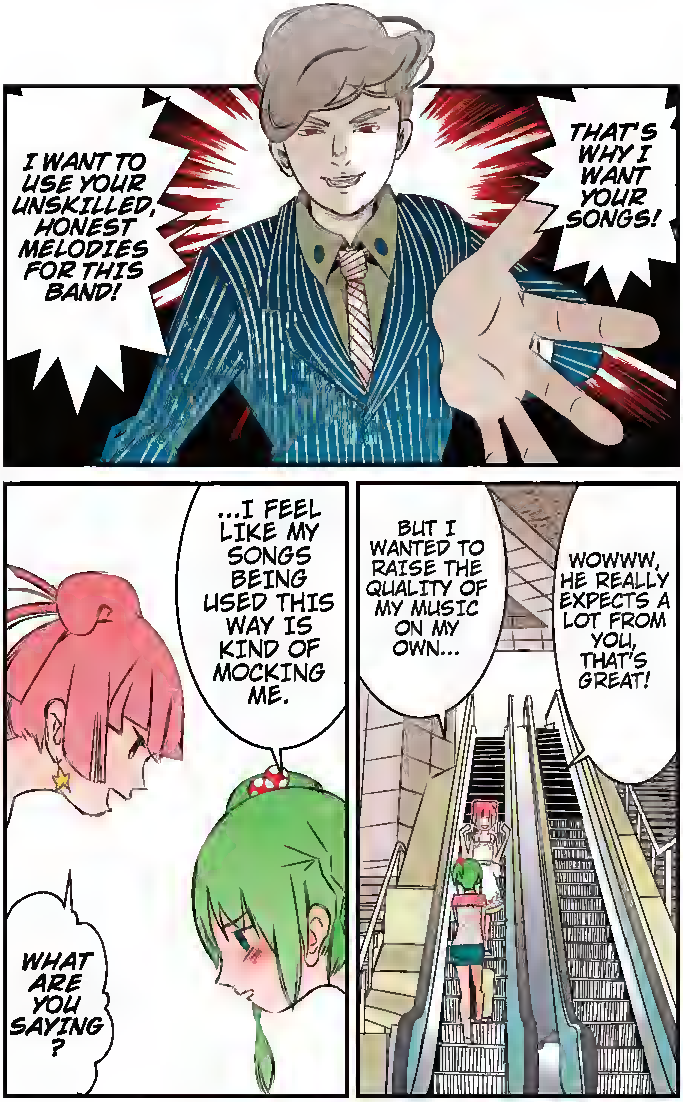

WOW! YOU GUYS HAVE MANAGED TO MOVE THINGS ALONG THAT FAR, HUH?
...HE ASKED ME TO TAKE CARE OF THE ENTIRE IMAGE FOR THE CONCERT.

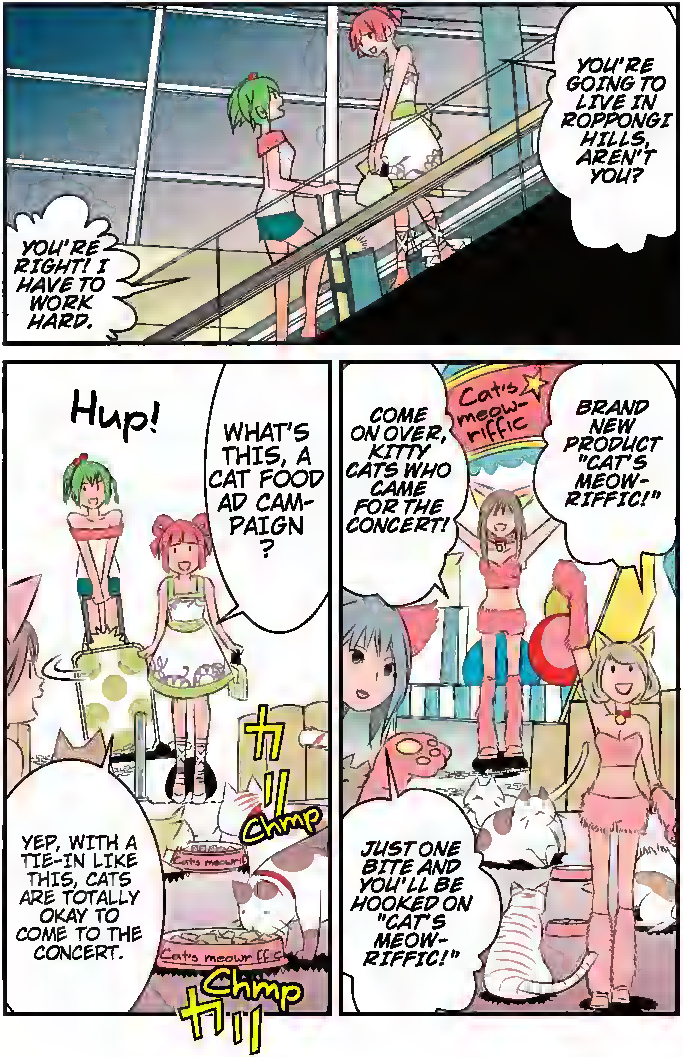

WHAT?
UM, HEY, SUMIRE?

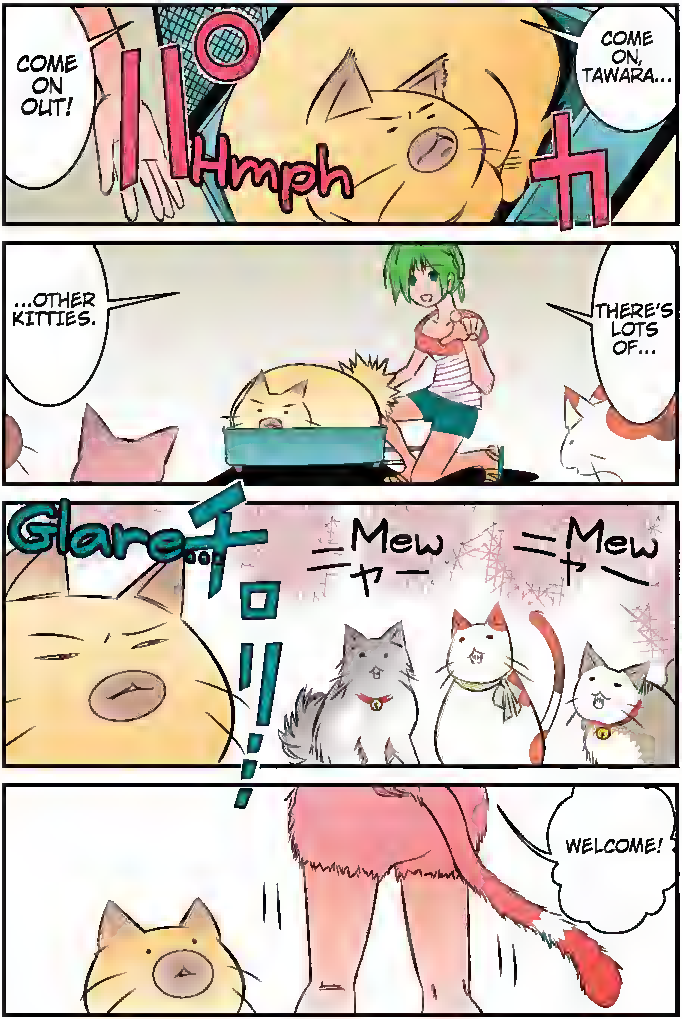

SO THIS TIME, I'M PUTTING IT ALL ON THE LINE!
AND IF THE CMO SONG GOES WELL, I'LL MOVE INTO ROPPONGI HILLS!
...BUT THAT CMO GUY...
THIS ALL GOT PUT TOGETHER SO QUICKLY THAT I COULDN'T HELP BUT GO ALONG...
HMM... YEAH, A LITTLE.
...DON'T YOU THINK HE'S KIND OF SHADY?
...BUT IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS SINCE I MOVED TO TOKYO, AND NOTHING'S HAPPENED FOR ME.
THERE REALLY HAS BEEN A LOT OF KIND OF UNPLEASANT STUFF IN THE LEAD UP TO THIS...

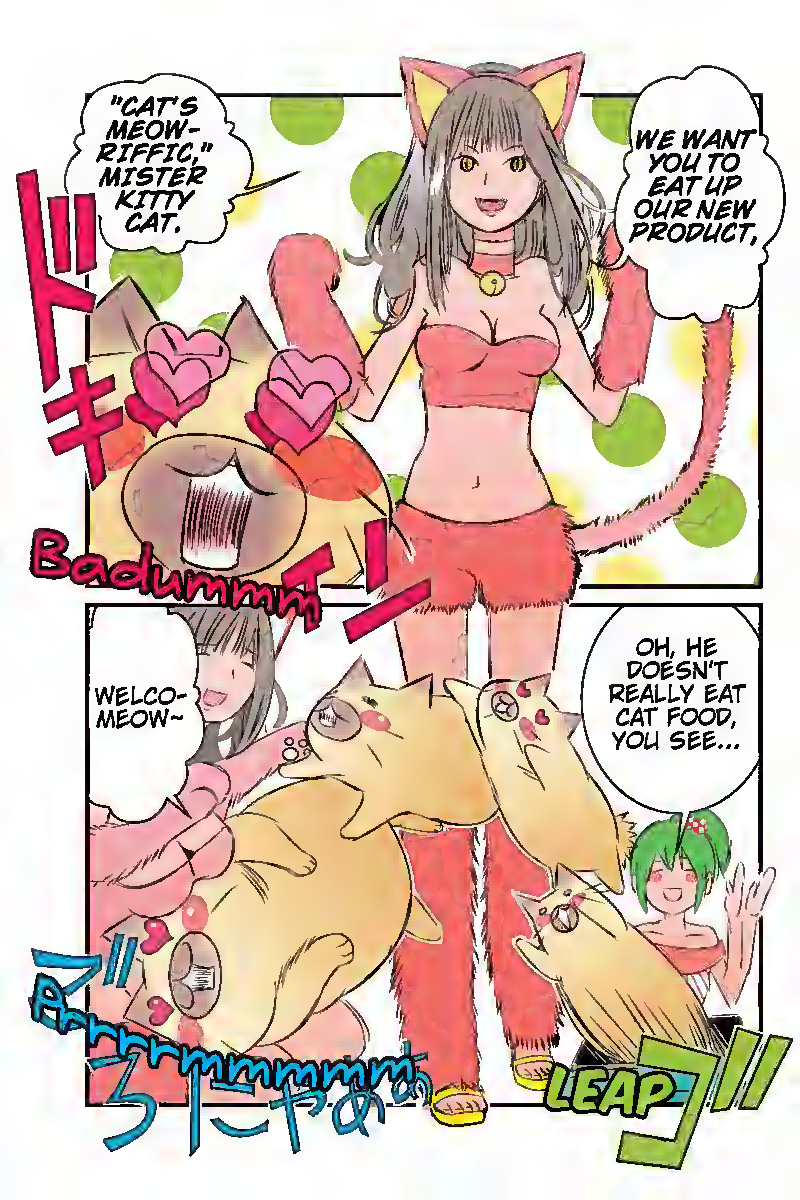

"SUPER SAEKICK."
super saekick
premium live
BUT YOU KNOW, I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THIS BAND...
STILL, A NEW BAND PLAYING AT SONIX HALL ROPPONGI...
I HEARD THEY'RE A NEW BAND, AND THAT THE CONCERT TODAY IS LIKE A PRERELEASE PARTY JUST FOR SPECIAL GUESTS.
WELL, KING SONIC OWNS THIS PLACE, AND PLUS SUPER SAEKICK IS...
super saekick
premium live
I MEAN, BANDS LIKE JACKIES AND EXILE HAVE USED THIS STAGE, IT MUST BE PRICEY.

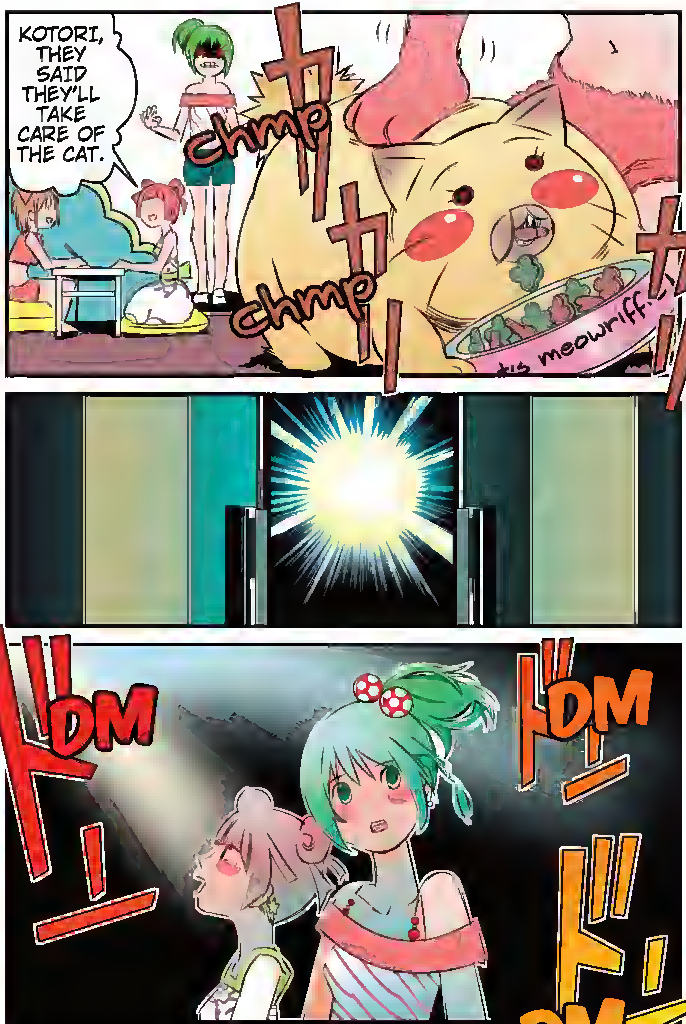

...THE GUITARIST, BASSIST, AND DRUMMER ARE ALL TOP-CLASS VETERAN MUSICIANS.
THEY'VE BEEN CALLED A NEW BAND, BUT THE ONLY REAL NEWBIE IS THE VOCALIST...
...THAT HAVING VETERANS TO BACK HIM UP IS A GIVEN.
HOW-EVER... THE VOCALIST IS SUCH A GENIUS...
THE PUBLIC HAS TO BE ABLE TO SING THE SONG AT KARAOKE.
PERFECT MUSIC WITH NO ISSUES WHATSOEVER DOESN'T SELL.
...THAT WON'T MAKE ANY MONEY, IS POINT-LESS.
MUSIC THAT WON'T SELL...


I WANT TO USE YOUR UNSKILLED, HONEST MELODIES FOR THIS BAND!
THAT'S WHY I WANT YOUR SONGS!
...I FEEL LIKE MY SONGS BEING USED THIS WAY IS KIND OF MOCKING ME.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
BUT I WANTED TO RAISE THE QUALITY OF MY MUSIC ON MY OWN...
WOWWW, HE REALLY EXPECTS A LOT FROM YOU, THAT'S GREAT!

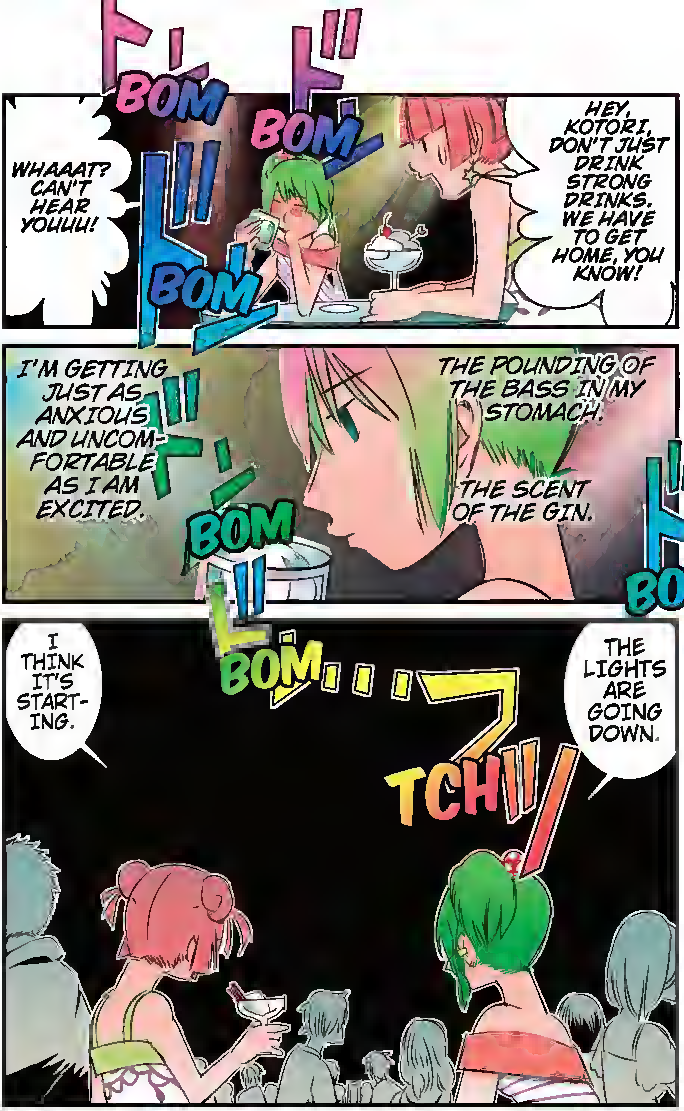

YOU'RE GOING TO LIVE IN ROPPONGI HILLS, AREN'T YOU?
YOU'RE RIGHT! I HAVE TO WORK HARD.
Hup!
WHAT'S THIS, A CAT FOOD AD CAMPAIGN?
YEP. WITH A TIE-IN LIKE THIS, CATS ARE TOTALLY OKAY TO COME TO THE CONCERT.
Chmp
Chmp
Cat's meow-riffic
COME ON OVER, KITTY CATS WHO CAME FOR THE CONCERT!
BRAND NEW PRODUCT "CAT'S MEOW-RIFFIC!"
JUST ONE BITE AND YOU'LL BE HOOKED ON "CAT'S MEOW-RIFFIC!"

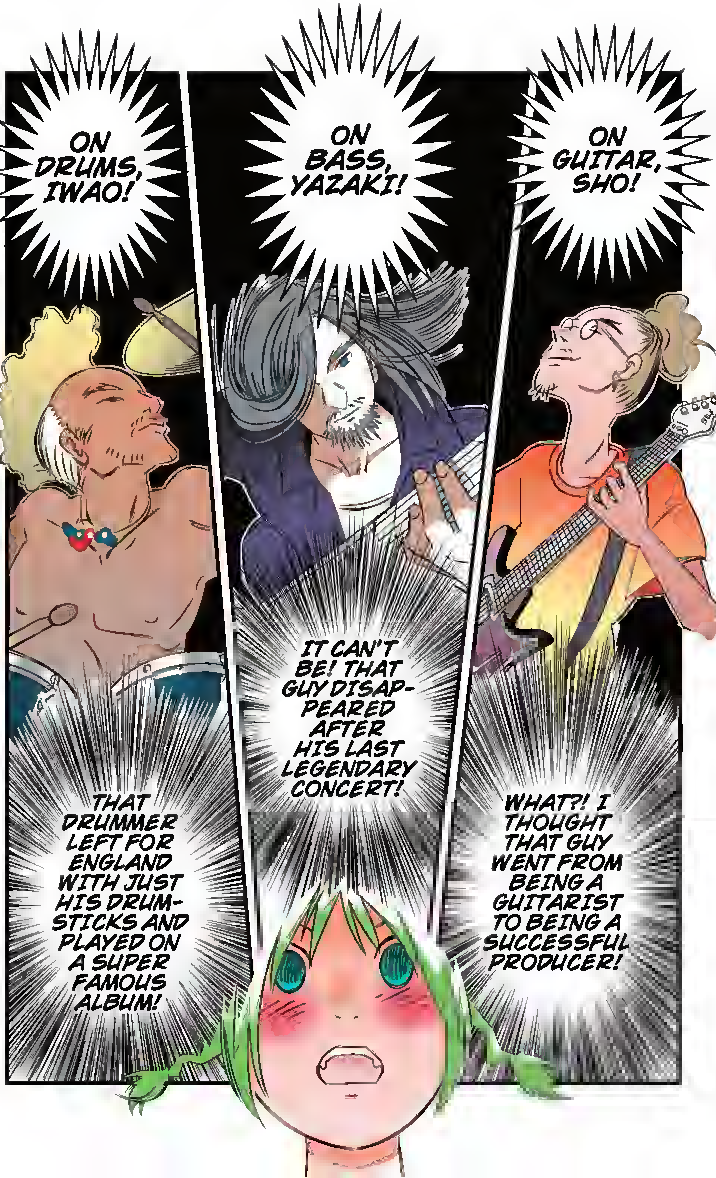

COME ON OUT!
Hmph
COME ON, TAWARA...
...OTHER KITTIES.
THERE'S LOTS OF...
Glare...
Mew
Mew
WELCOME!

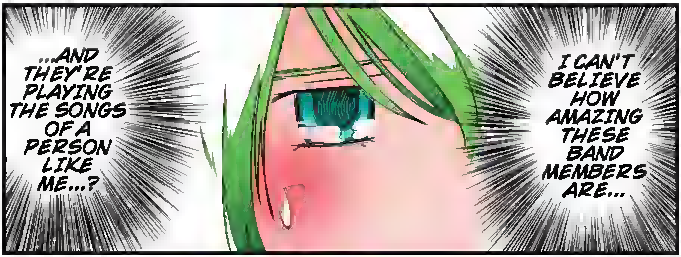

"CAT'S MEOW-RIFFIC," MISTER KITTY CAT.
WE WANT YOU TO EAT UP OUR NEW PRODUCT,
ドキ
Badummm
WELCO-MEOW~
OH, HE DOESN'T REALLY EAT CAT FOOD, YOU SEE...
Errrrrmmmmm
うにゃあ
LEAP

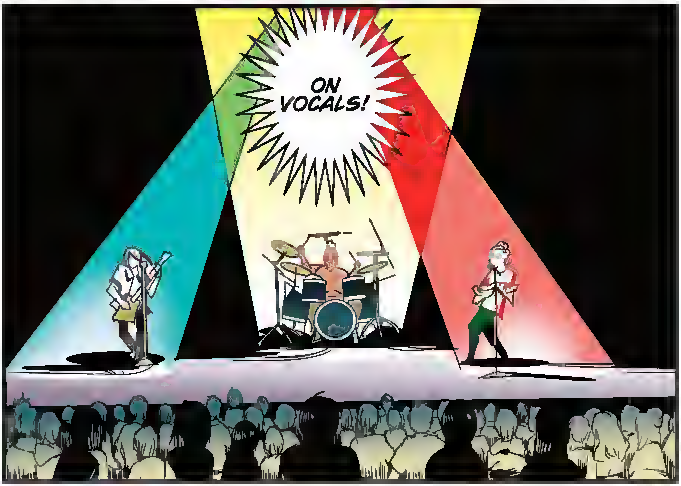

KOTORI, THEY SAID THEY'LL TAKE CARE OF THE CAT.
chmp
chmp
meowriff.
DM
DM
DM
DM

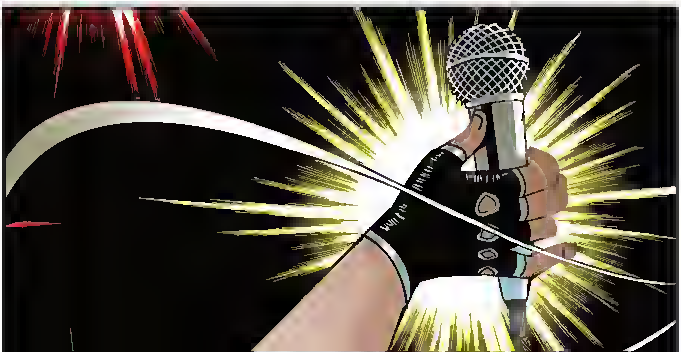
BOM
BOM
BOM
BOM
BOM
BOM
BAR
ANYWAY, LET'S GET A DRINK.
WHAT? I CAN'T HEAR YOU.
IT'S HUGE!
BOM
I'D LIKE A FROZEN DAIQUIRI.
IF YOU HAVE BOMBAY SAPPHIRE, I'LL HAVE A GIN GIMLET, PLEASE!
BOM

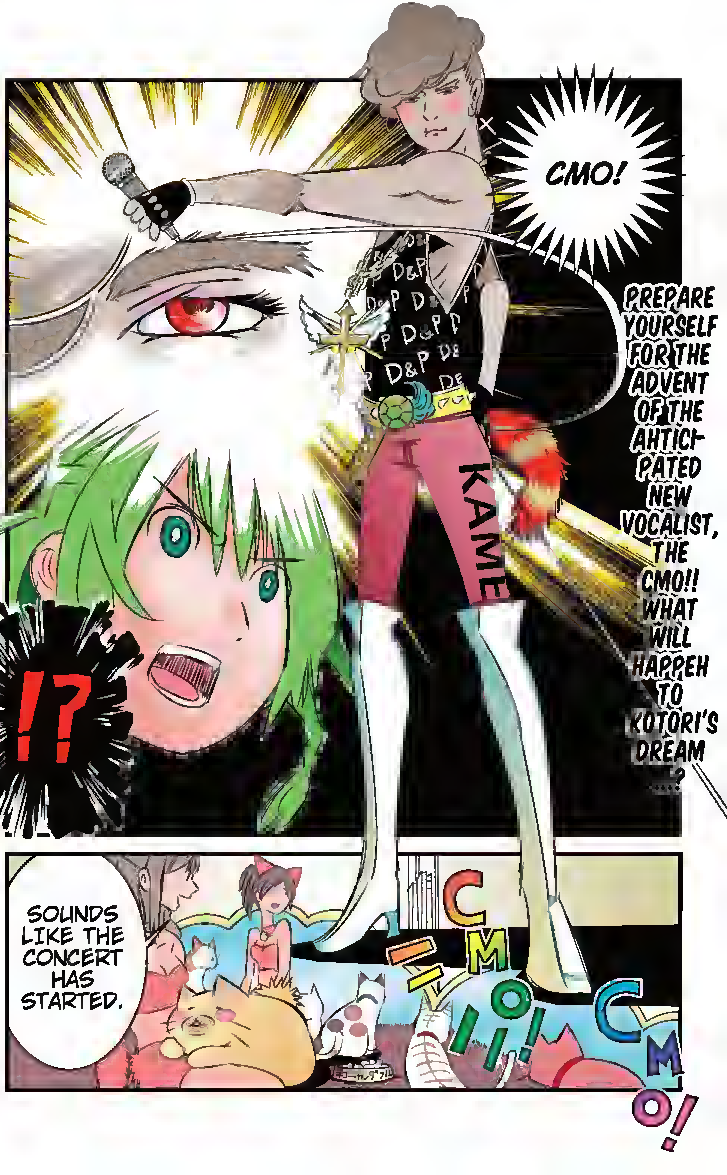

BOM
BOM
BOM
WHAAAT? CAN'T HEAR YOUUU!
HEY, KOTORI, DON'T JUST DRINK STRONG DRINKS. WE HAVE TO GET HOME, YOU KNOW!
I'M GETTING JUST AS ANXIOUS AND UNCOM-FORTABLE AS I AM EXCITED.
THE POUNDING OF THE BASS IN MY STOMACH.
THE SCENT OF THE GIN.
BOM
BOM
BOM
I THINK IT'S START-ING.
TCH
THE LIGHTS ARE GOING DOWN.


ON DRUMS, IWAO!
ON BASS, YAZAKI!
ON GUITAR, SHO!
IT CAN'T BE! THAT GUY DISAP-PEARED AFTER HIS LAST LEGENDARY CONCERT!
THAT DRUMMER LEFT FOR ENGLAND WITH JUST HIS DRUM-STICKS AND PLAYED ON A SUPER FAMOUS ALBUM!
WHAT?! I THOUGHT THAT GUY WENT FROM BEING A GUITARIST TO BEING A SUCCESSFUL PRODUCER!

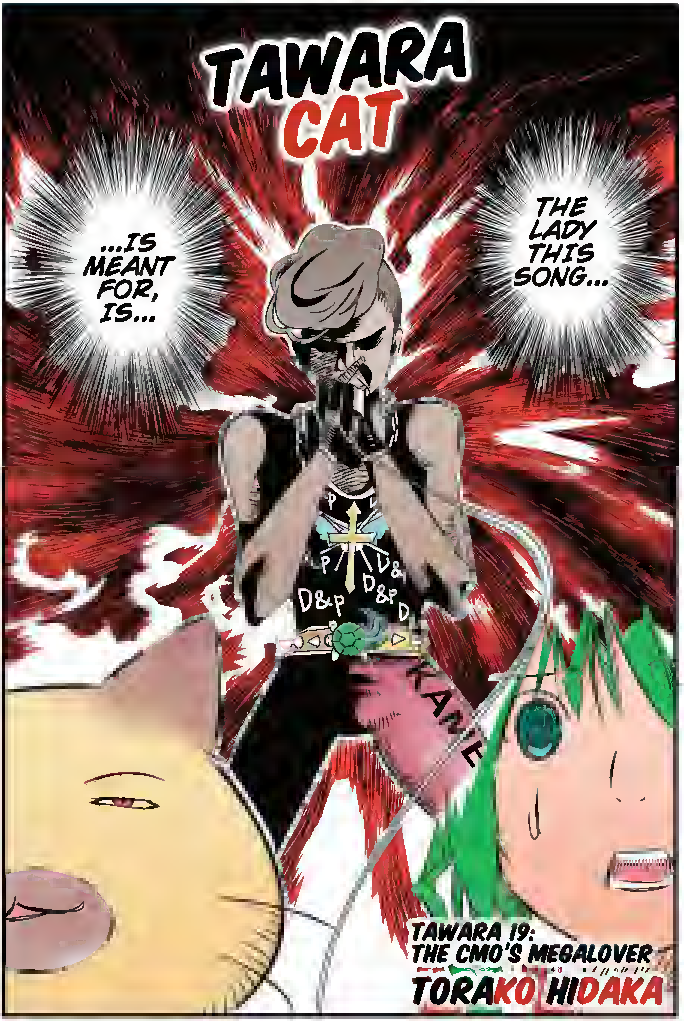

...AND THEY'RE PLAYING THE SONGS OF A PERSON LIKE ME...?
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW AMAZING THESE BAND MEMBERS ARE...


ON VOCALS!



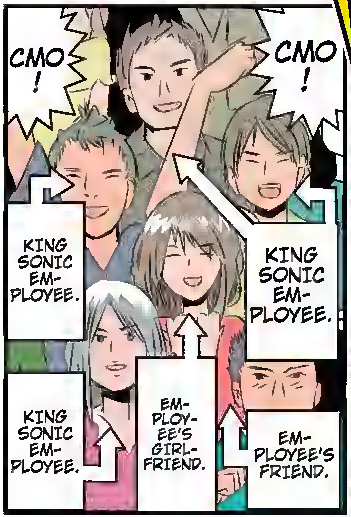

CMO!
PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THE ADVENT OF THE AHTICI-PATED NEW VOCALIST, THE CMO!! WHAT WILL HAPPEH TO KOTORI'S DREAM ...?
KAME
!?
SOUNDS LIKE THE CONCERT HAS STARTED.
CMO!!
CMO!

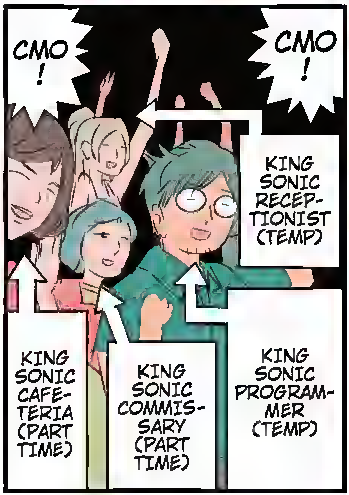
MangaBox

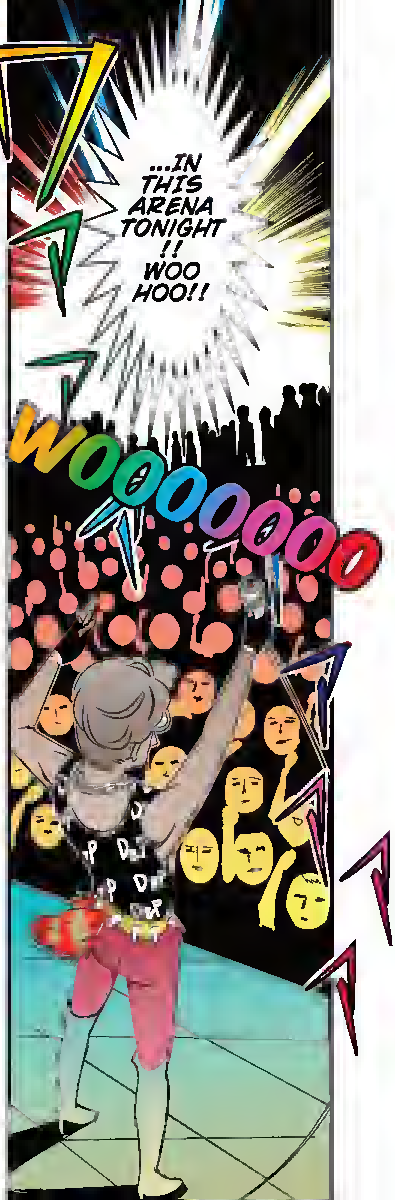


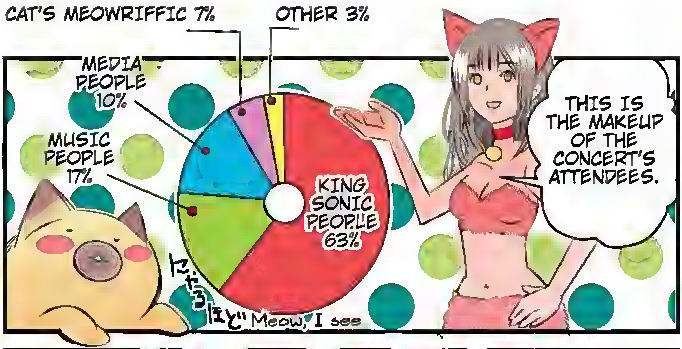
THIS STORY IS FICTIONAL, AND COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO REAL PEOPLE, GROUPS, OR EVENTS.

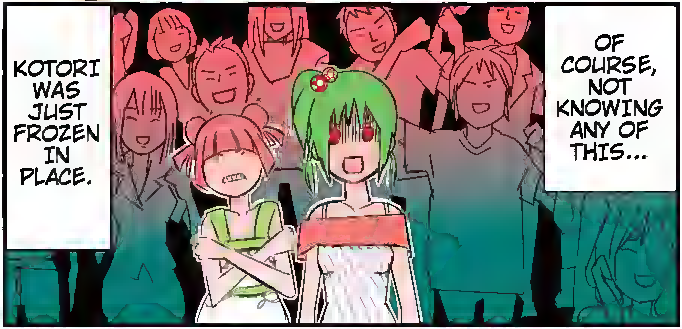
Translation by Abby Lehrke
Adaptation by Alexandra Swanson
YKS SERVICES LLC / SKY JAPAN, Inc

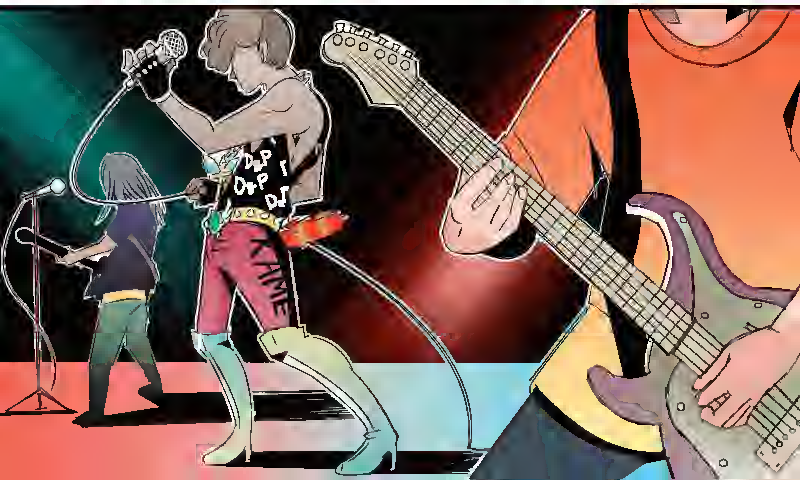

CMO!
CMO!
KING SONIC EMPLOYEE.
KING SONIC EMPLOYEE.
KING SONIC EMPLOYEE.
EMPLOYEE'S GIRLFRIEND.
EMPLOYEE'S FRIEND.

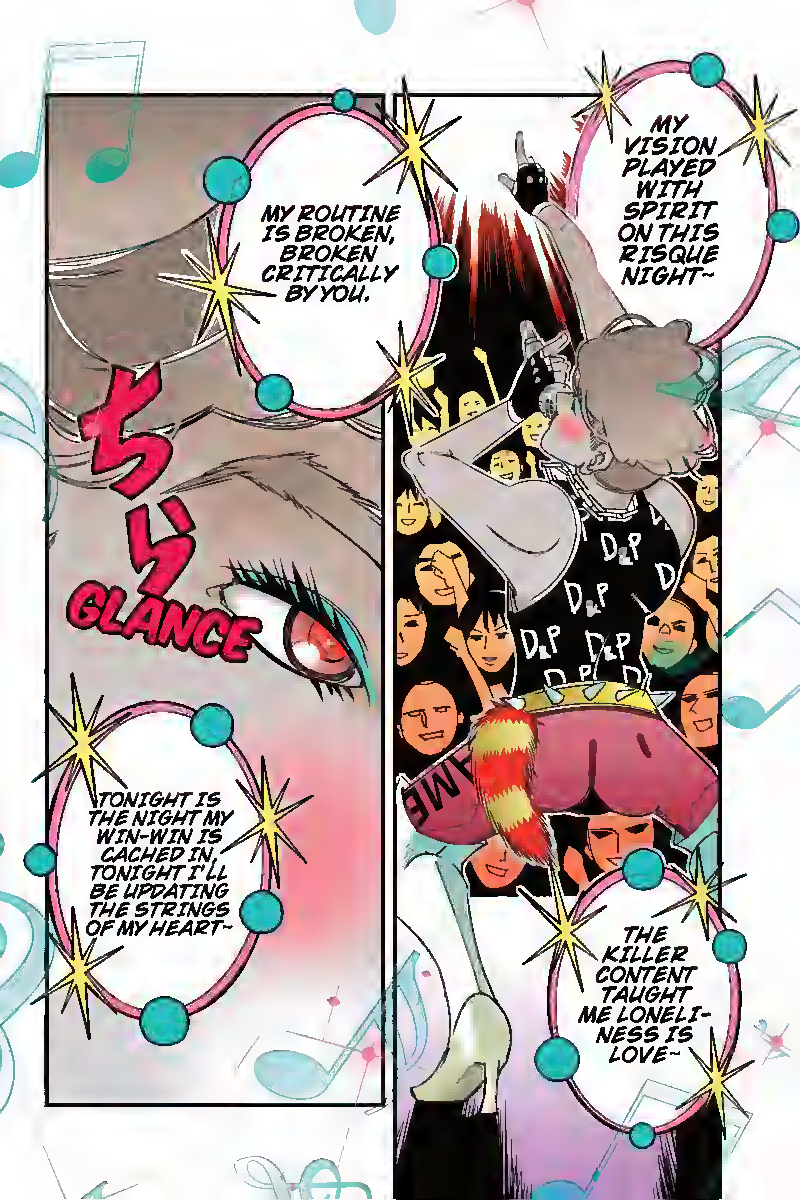

CMO!
CMO!
KING SONIC RECEPTIONIST (TEMP)
KING SONIC CAFETERIA (PART TIME)
KING SONIC COMMISSARY (PART TIME)
KING SONIC PROGRAMMER (TEMP)

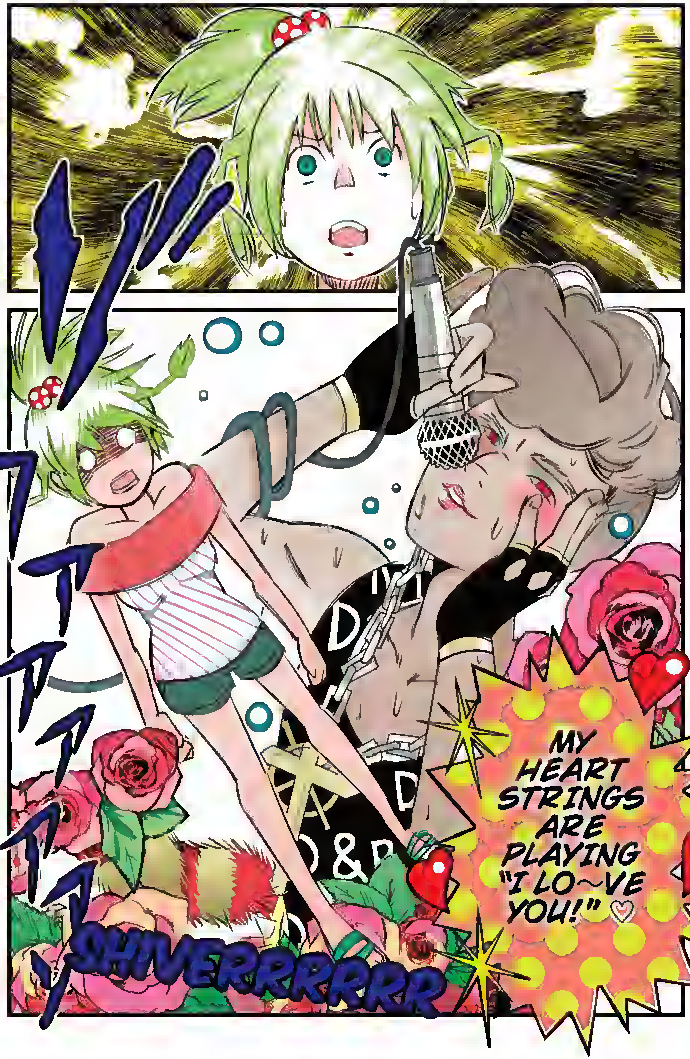

...IN THIS ARENA TONIGHT!! WOO HOO!!
WOOOOOOO


CAT'S MEOWRIFFIC 7%
OTHER 3%
MEDIA PEOPLE 10%
MUSIC PEOPLE 17%
KING SONIC PEOPLE 63%
THIS IS THE MAKEUP OF THE CONCERT'S ATTENDEES.
にゃるほど Meow, I see

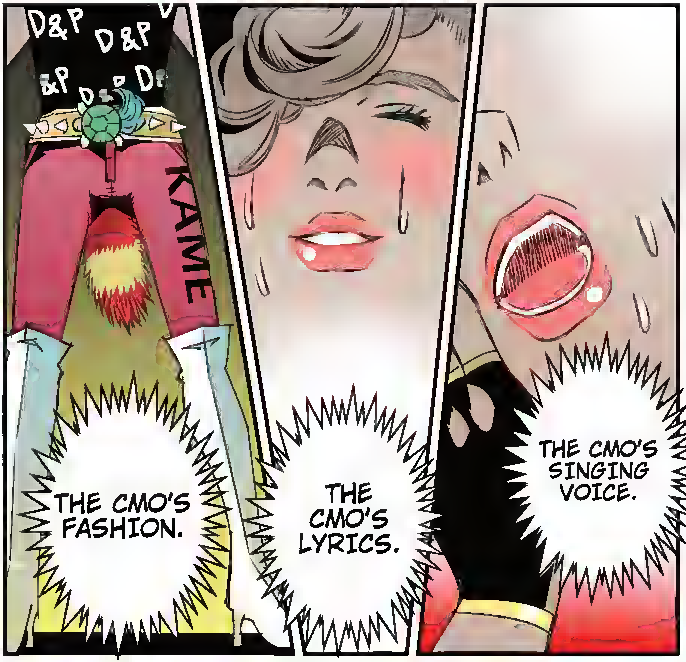

KOTORI WAS JUST FROZEN IN PLACE.
OF COURSE, NOT KNOWING ANY OF THIS...

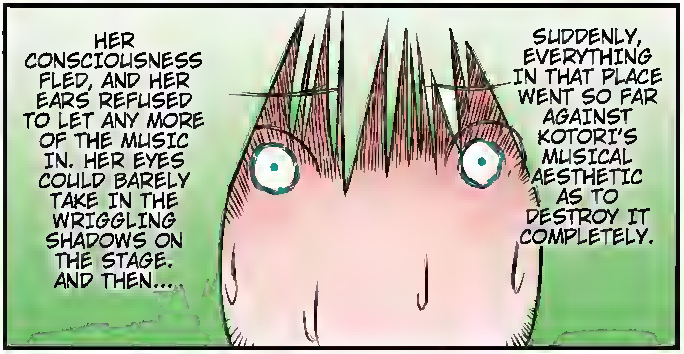

DuP DuP ! DuP
KAME

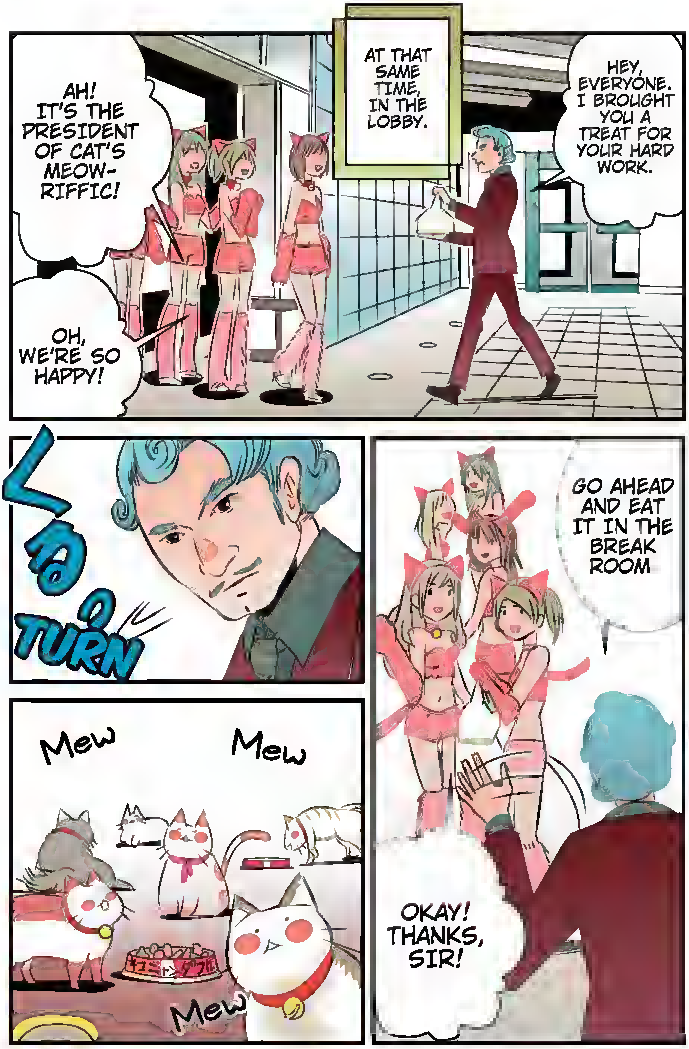

MY ROUTINE IS BROKEN, BROKEN CRITICALLY BY YOU.
ちら GLANCE
TONIGHT IS THE NIGHT MY WIN-WIN IS CACHED IN. TONIGHT I'LL BE UPDATING THE STRINGS OF MY HEART~
MY VISION PLAYED WITH SPIRIT ON THIS RISQUE NIGHT~
THE KILLER CONTENT TAUGHT ME LONELI-NESS IS LOVE~

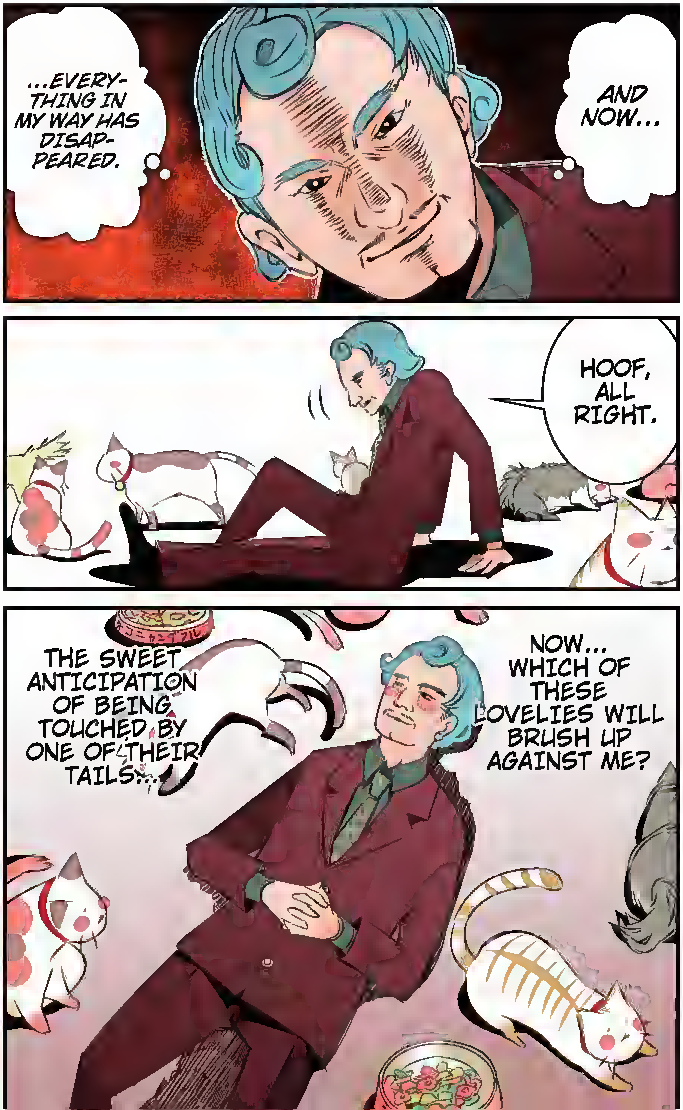

MY HEART STRINGS ARE PLAYING "I LO~VE YOU!" ♡
SHIVERRRRRRR

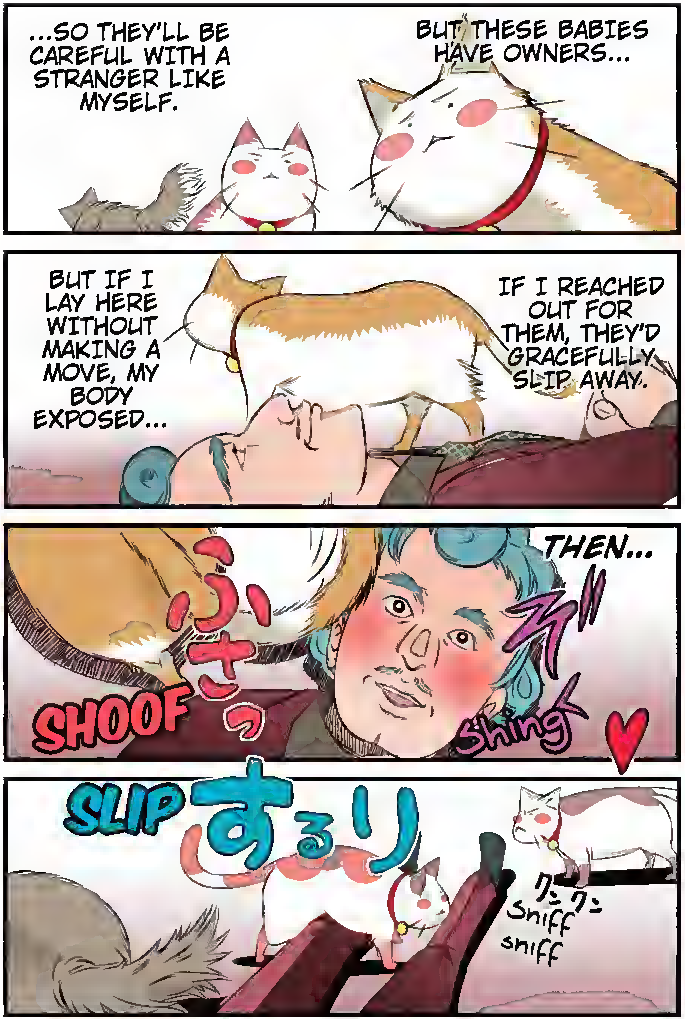
...REALLY YOUR-
HEY IS THIS...
KOTO-

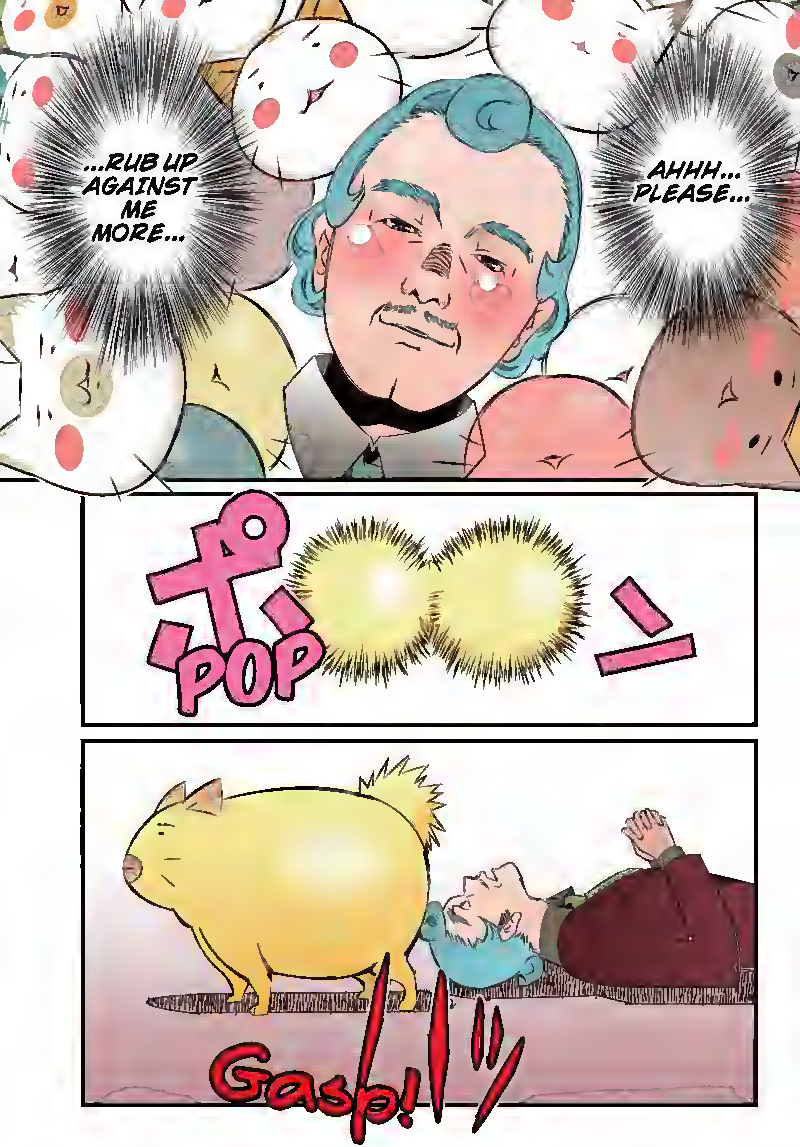

D&P D&P
KAME
THE CMO'S FASHION.
THE CMO'S LYRICS.
THE CMO'S SINGING VOICE.

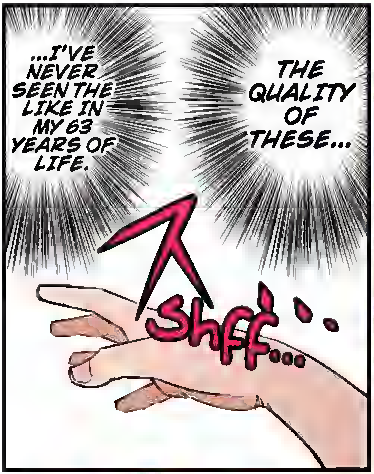

HER CONSCIOUSNESS FLED, AND HER EARS REFUSED TO LET ANY MORE OF THE MUSIC IN. HER EYES COULD BARELY TAKE IN THE WRIGGLING SHADOWS ON THE STAGE. AND THEN...
SUDDENLY, EVERYTHING IN THAT PLACE WENT SO FAR AGAINST KOTORI'S MUSICAL AESTHETIC AS TO DESTROY IT COMPLETELY.

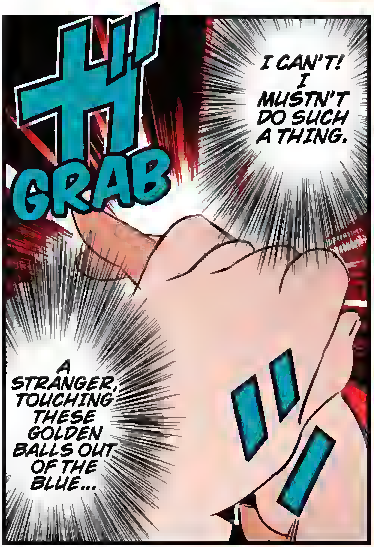

AH! IT'S THE PRESIDENT OF CAT'S MEOW-RIFFIC!
OH, WE'RE SO HAPPY!
AT THAT SAME TIME, IN THE LOBBY.
HEY, EVERYONE. I BROUGHT YOU A TREAT FOR YOUR HARD WORK.
LATER TURN
GO AHEAD AND EAT IT IN THE BREAK ROOM
OKAY! THANKS, SIR!
Mew
Mew
Mew

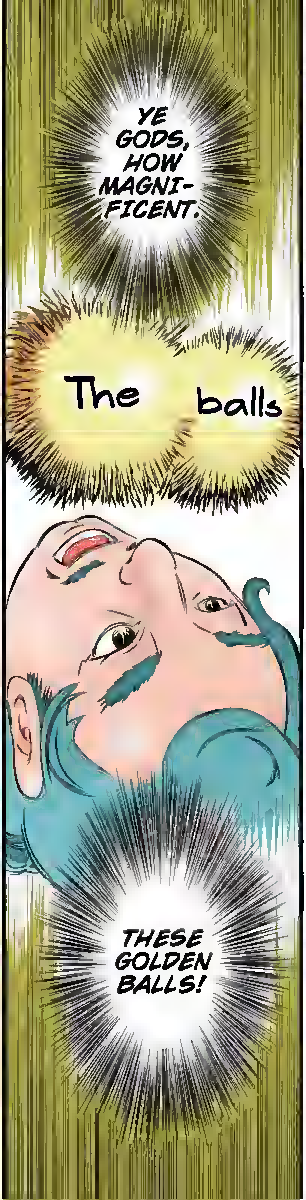

...EVERY-THING IN MY WAY HAS DISAP-PEARED.
AND NOW...
HOOF, ALL RIGHT.
THE SWEET ANTICIPATION OF BEING TOUCHED BY ONE OF THEIR TAILS...
NOW... WHICH OF THESE LOVELIES WILL BRUSH UP AGAINST ME?

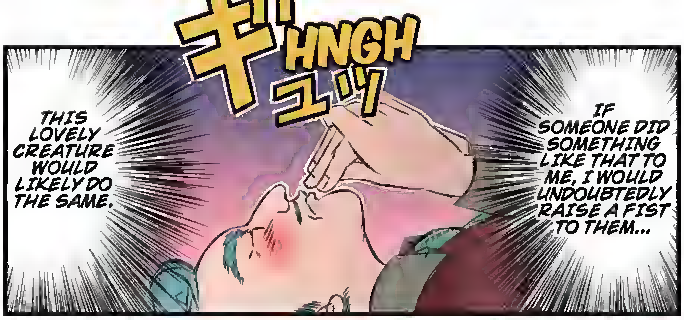

...SO THEY'LL BE CAREFUL WITH A STRANGER LIKE MYSELF.
BUT THESE BABIES HAVE OWNERS...
BUT IF I LAY HERE WITHOUT MAKING A MOVE, MY BODY EXPOSED...
IF I REACHED OUT FOR THEM, THEY'D GRACEFULLY SLIP AWAY.
THEN...
ふっ
SHOOF
SHING
SLIP するり
クンクン
Sniff
sniff


...RUB UP AGAINST ME MORE...
AHHH... PLEASE...
POP
Gasp!

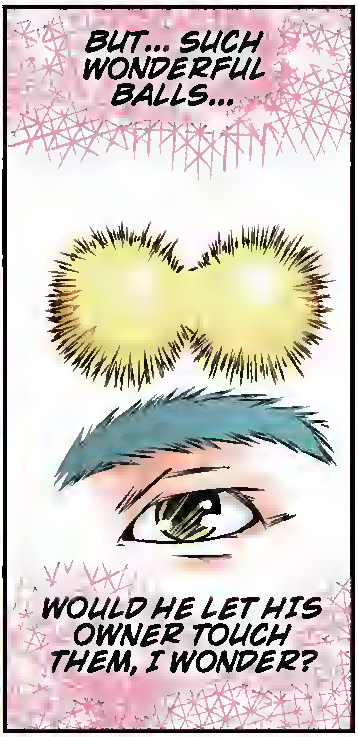

...I'VE NEVER SEEN THE LIKE IN MY 63 YEARS OF LIFE.
THE QUALITY OF THESE...
Shff...


GRAB
I CAN'T! I MUSTN'T DO SUCH A THING.
A STRANGER, TOUCHING THESE GOLDEN BALLS OUT OF THE BLUE...

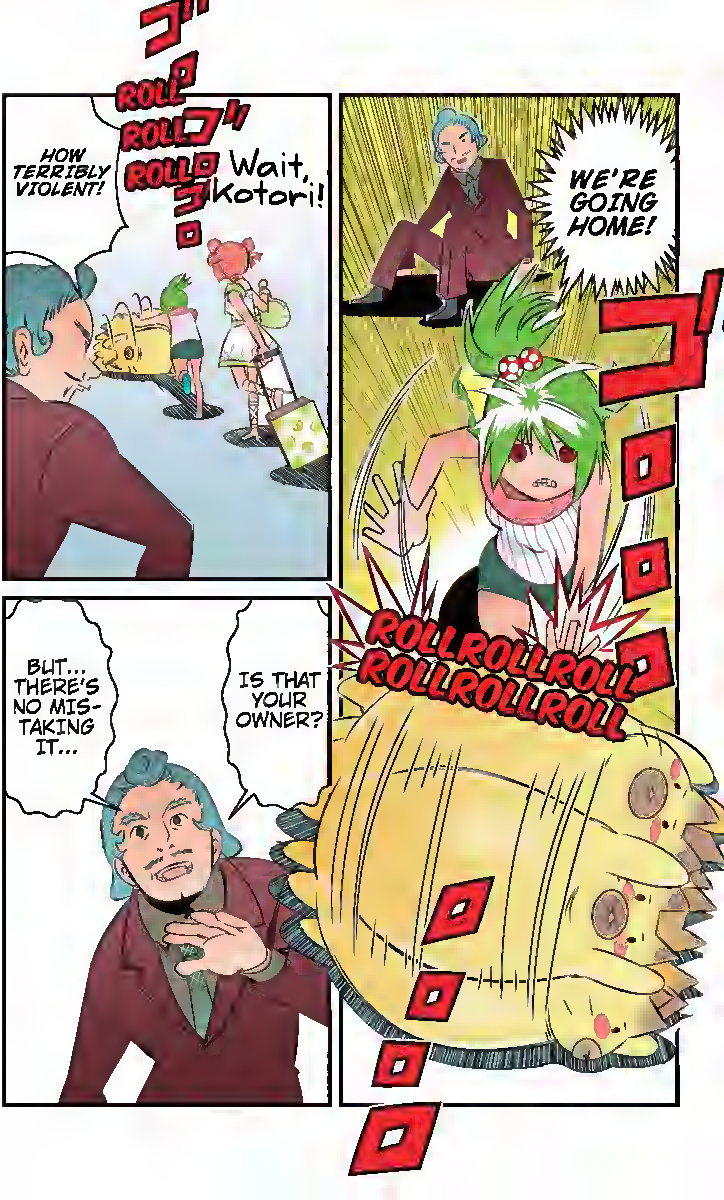

YE GODS, HOW MAGNI-FICENT.
The balls
THESE GOLDEN BALLS!

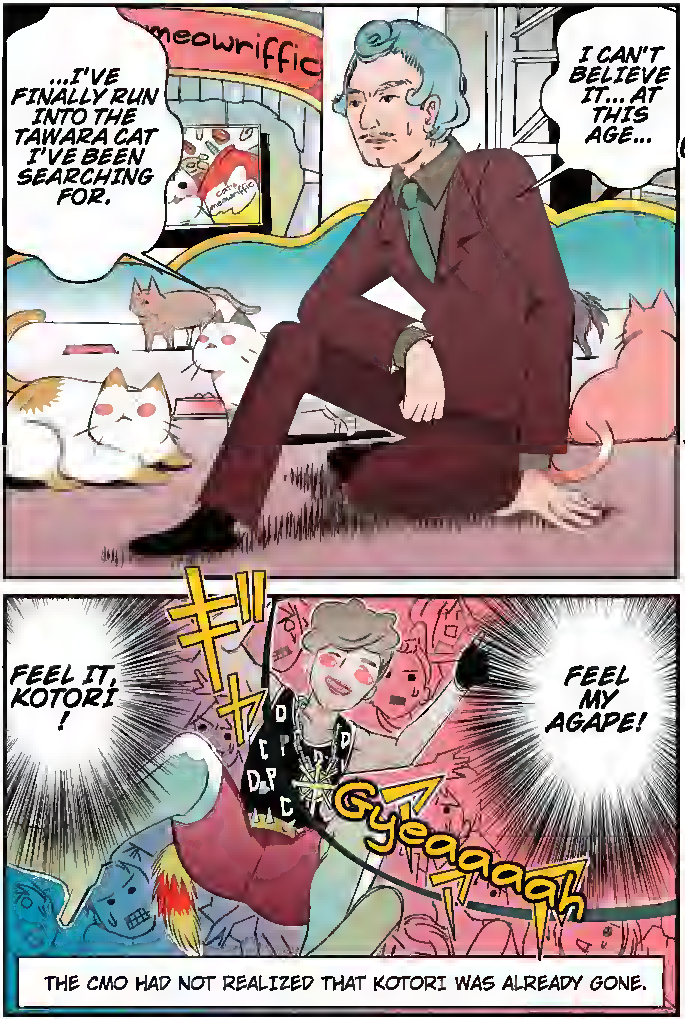

HNGH
THIS LOVELY CREATURE WOULD LIKELY DO THE SAME.
IF SOMEONE DID SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO ME, I WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY RAISE A FIST TO THEM...

TURN 7


BUT... SUCH WONDERFUL BALLS...
WOULD HE LET HIS OWNER TOUCH THEM, I WONDER?

A TAWARA CAT?!
Leap
BAM
I'VE HAD IT!


ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
Wait, Kotori!
HOW TERRIBLY VIOLENT!
WE'RE GOING HOME!
ROLLROLLROLL
ROLLROLLROLL
IS THAT YOUR OWNER?
BUT... THERE'S NO MIS-TAKING IT...


meowriffic
...I'VE FINALLY RUN INTO THE TAWARA CAT I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... AT THIS AGE...
A NEW CHARACTER, THE PRESIDENT OF CAT'S MEOWRIFFIC. WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH TAWARA?!
FEEL IT, KOTORI!
FEEL MY AGAPE!
Gyeaaaah
THE CMO HAD NOT REALIZED THAT KOTORI WAS ALREADY GONE.

MangaBox

Translation by Abby Lehrke
Adaptation by Alexandra Swanson
YKS SERVICES LLC / SKY JAPAN, Inc.

TAWARA CAT

そして

And...

...the CMO flew...

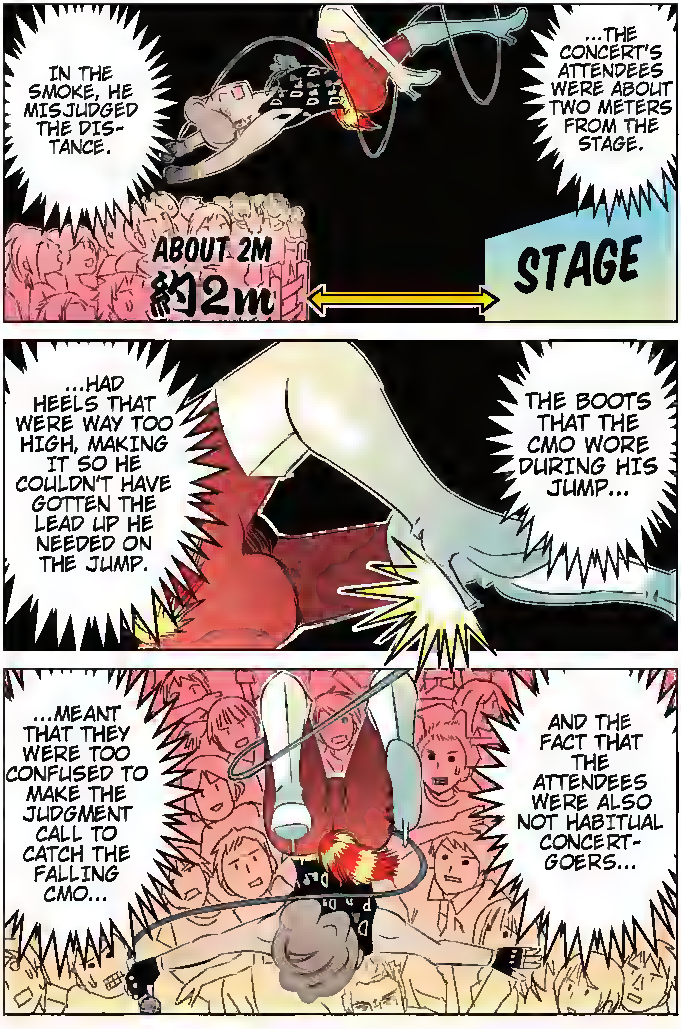
CMOは飛んだ

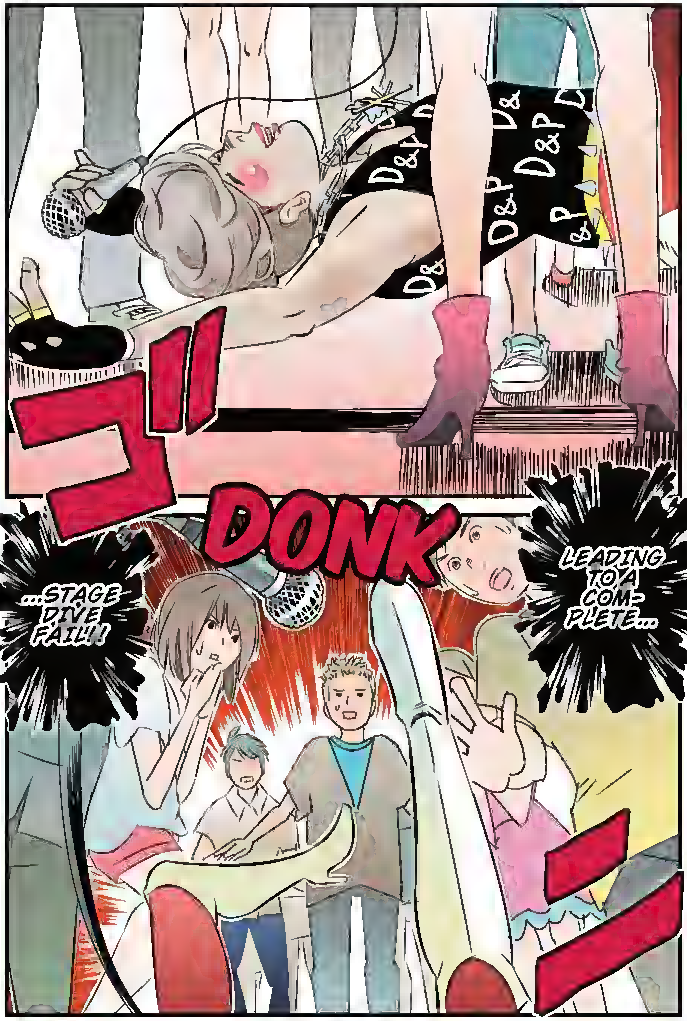
PLEASE SEE THE LAST ISSUE FOR REFERENCE.

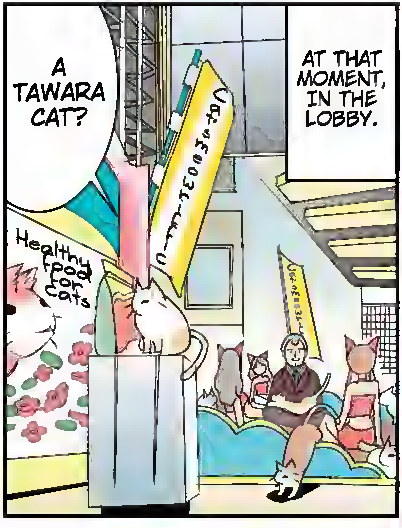
TAWARA 20:
KOTORI'S HEARTBREAK

TORAKO HIDAKA

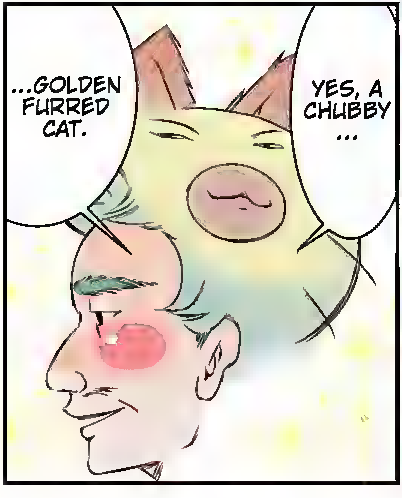
THE CMO, HIS BODY BATHED IN THE LIGHTS OF THE STAGE...
WHIRL
WHIRL
WHIRL
WHIRL
...THREW HIMSELF OFF WHILE SPINNING AROUND. BUT...
YOU COULDN'T CALL IT ANYTHING BUT...
...A PILING-ON OF MISFOR-TUNES

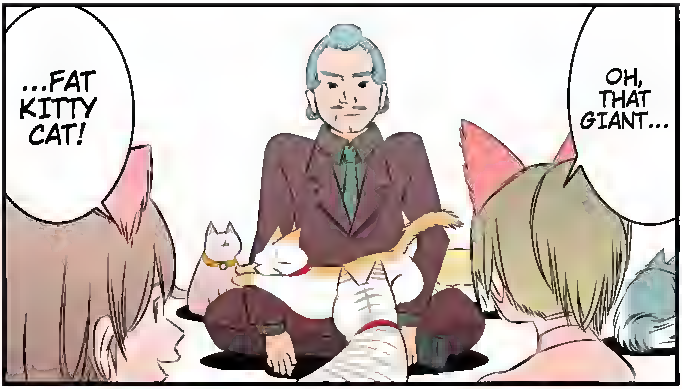

IN THE SMOKE, HE MISJUDGED THE DISTANCE.
...THE CONCERT'S ATTENDEES WERE ABOUT TWO METERS FROM THE STAGE.
ABOUT 2M
約2m
STAGE
...HAD HEELS THAT WERE WAY TOO HIGH, MAKING IT SO HE COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN THE LEAD UP HE NEEDED ON THE JUMP.
THE BOOTS THAT THE CMO WORE DURING HIS JUMP...
...MEANT THAT THEY WERE TOO CONFUSED TO MAKE THE JUDGMENT CALL TO CATCH THE FALLING CMO...
AND THE FACT THAT THE ATTENDEES WERE ALSO NOT HABITUAL CONCERT-GOERS...

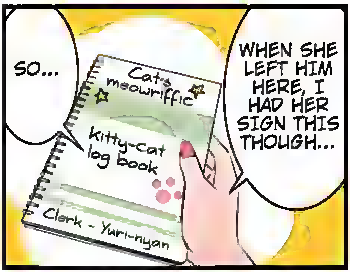

ゴ!!
DONK
...STAGE DIVE FAIL!!
LEADING TO A COMPLETE...
ニ

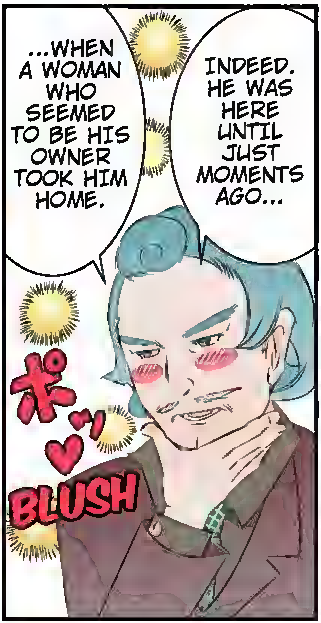

AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE LOBBY.
A TAWARA CAT?
Healthy Food for Cats

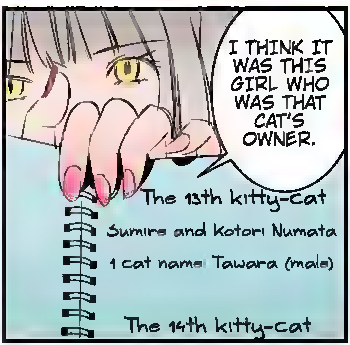
CMO!
CMO!
CMO!
CMO!


YES, A CHUBBY ...
...GOLDEN FURRED CAT.

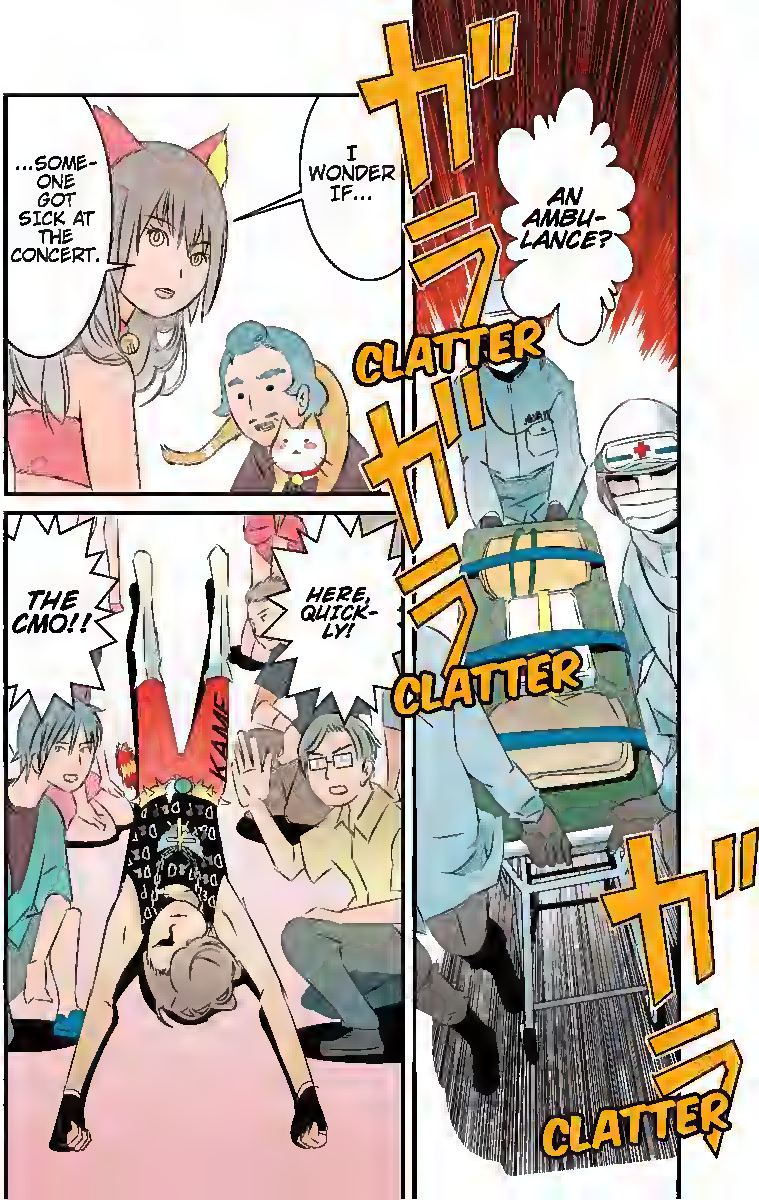

...FAT KITTY CAT!
OH, THAT GIANT...

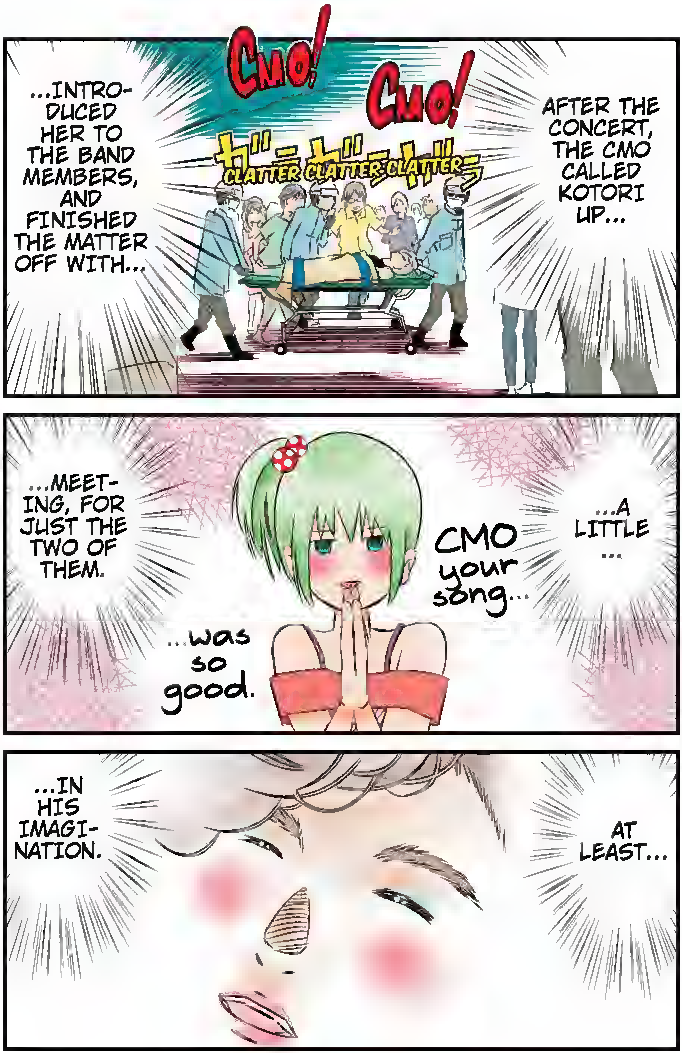

SO...
Cat's meowriffic
kitty-cat log book
Clerk - Yuri-nyan
WHEN SHE LEFT HIM HERE, I HAD HER SIGN THIS THOUGH...

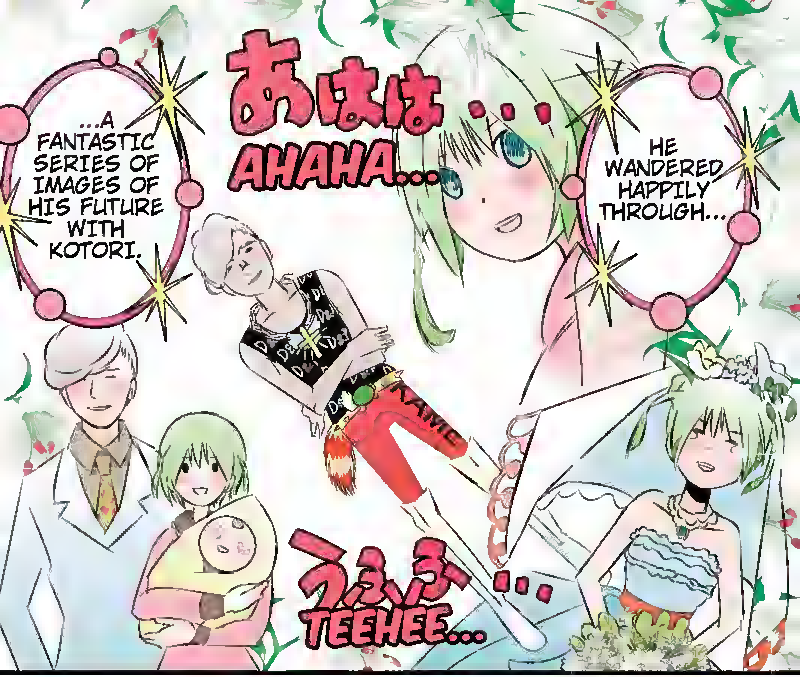

...WHEN A WOMAN WHO SEEMED TO BE HIS OWNER TOOK HIM HOME.
INDEED. HE WAS HERE UNTIL JUST MOMENTS AGO...
ポ
BLUSH

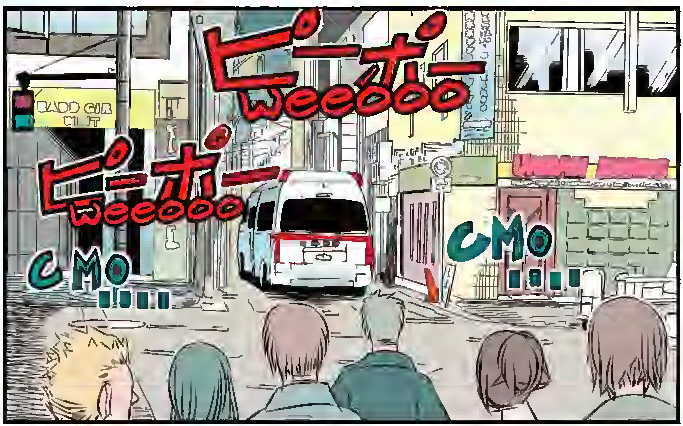

I THINK IT WAS THIS GIRL WHO WAS THAT CAT'S OWNER.
The 13th kitty-cat
Sumire and Kotori Numata
1 cat name: Tawara (male)
The 14th kitty-cat

Hmm...
SHE DID NOT WRITE HER CONTACT INFOR-MATION, THEN...
PRESI-DENT, DID YOU...
ピーポー
weeoooo
ピーポー
weeoooo
...KNOW THAT KITTY-CAT?
...WHAT'S THIS?
YES, I BELIEVE THAT CAT CAME FROM MY HOME...
ガラ
CLATTER
ガラ
CLATTER

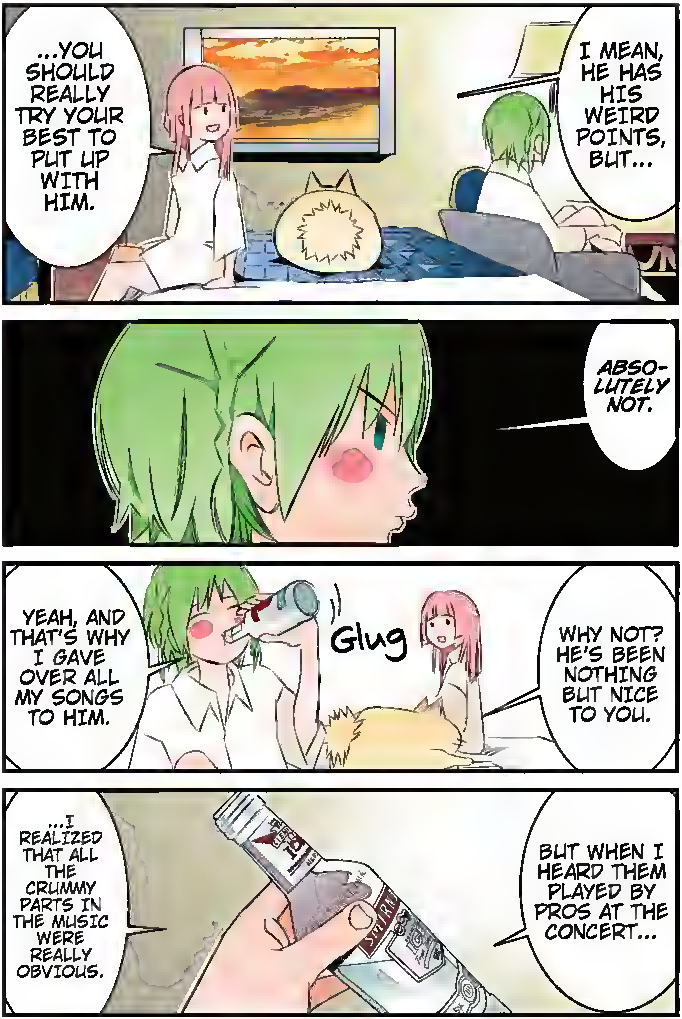

...SOME-ONE GOT SICK AT THE CONCERT.
I WONDER IF...
AN AMBU-LANCE?
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
THE CMO!!
HERE, QUICK-LY!
KAME

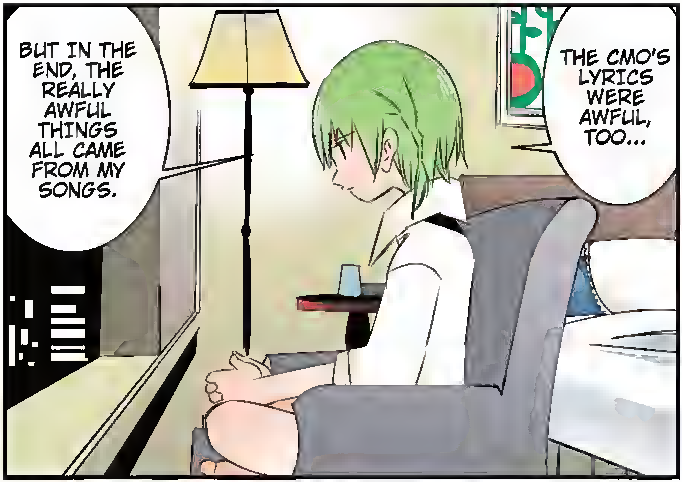

...INTRODUCED HER TO THE BAND MEMBERS, AND FINISHED THE MATTER OFF WITH...
CLATTER CLATTER CLATTER
CLAP!
CLAP!
AFTER THE CONCERT, THE CMO CALLED KOTORI UP...
...MEETING, FOR JUST THE TWO OF THEM.
...was so good.
CMO your song...
...A LITTLE ...
...IN HIS IMAGINATION.
AT LEAST...

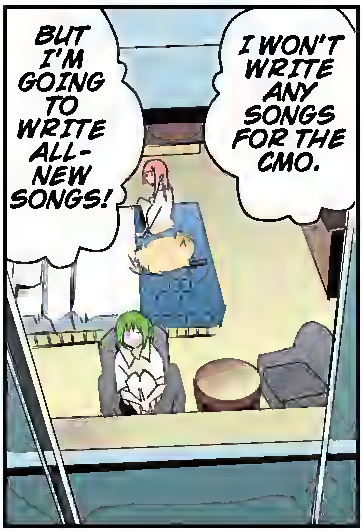

あはは…
AHAHA…
…A FANTASTIC SERIES OF IMAGES OF HIS FUTURE WITH KOTORI.
HE WANDERED HAPPILY THROUGH…
KAME
うふふ…
TEEHEE…

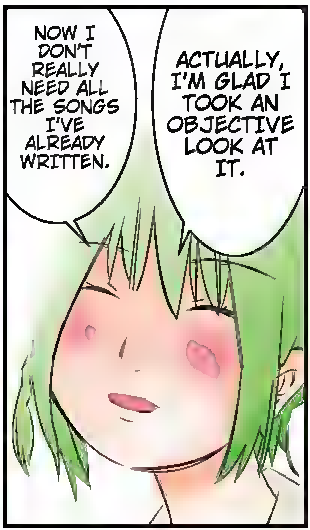

ピーポー
weeooo
ピーポー
weeooo
CMO
CMO

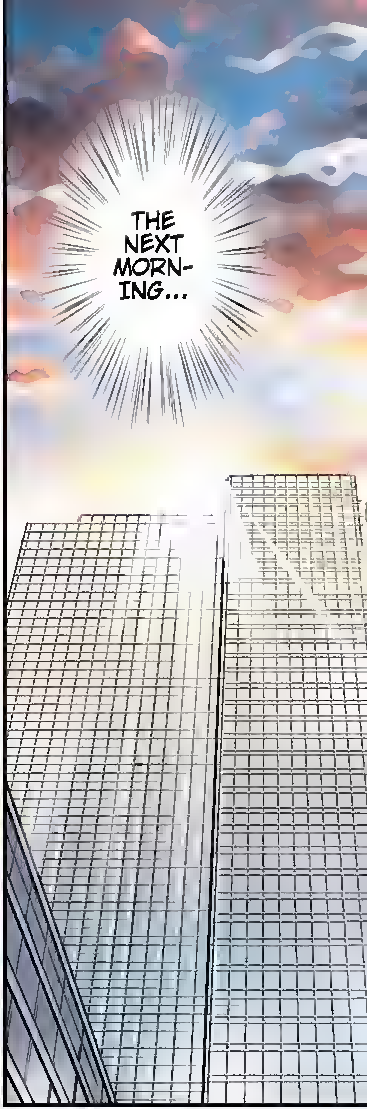
WINDOW
窓
HEY! I WANTED TO SLEEP ON THE BED CLOSEST TO THE WINDOW!
Ahhh...
あ
PLOOMP
ポ
MAN, IF THIS BED STARTS TO STINK LIKE CAT, I'M GONNA BE MAD.
CREEP
...THAT CMO GUY IS SO GENER-OUS.
BUT HE SURE SET US UP AT A NICE HOTEL...
BUT KOTORI, OF COURSE...
...HAD NO IDEA WHAT SITUATION HAD BEFALLEN HIM.
ヒーポー
weeooo
CREEP

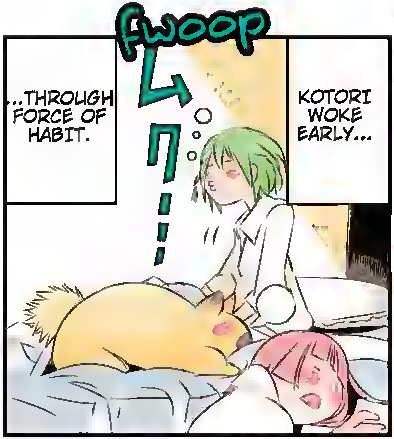

...YOU SHOULD REALLY TRY YOUR BEST TO PUT UP WITH HIM.
I MEAN, HE HAS HIS WEIRD POINTS, BUT...
ABSO-LUTELY NOT.
YEAH, AND THAT'S WHY I GAVE OVER ALL MY SONGS TO HIM.
Glug
WHY NOT? HE'S BEEN NOTHING BUT NICE TO YOU.
...I REALIZED THAT ALL THE CRUMMY PARTS IN THE MUSIC WERE REALLY OBVIOUS.
BUT WHEN I HEARD THEM PLAYED BY PROS AT THE CONCERT...

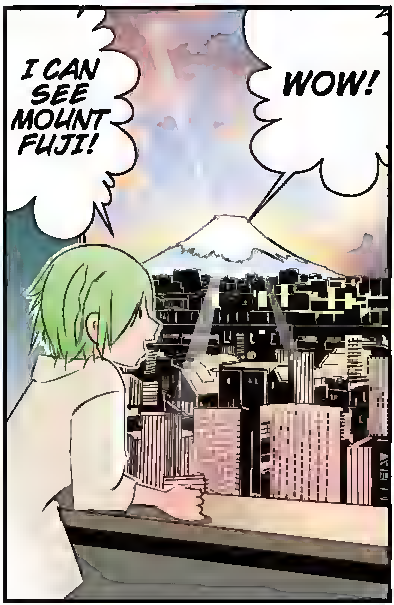

BUT IN THE END, THE REALLY AWFUL THINGS ALL CAME FROM MY SONGS.
THE CMO'S LYRICS WERE AWFUL, TOO...

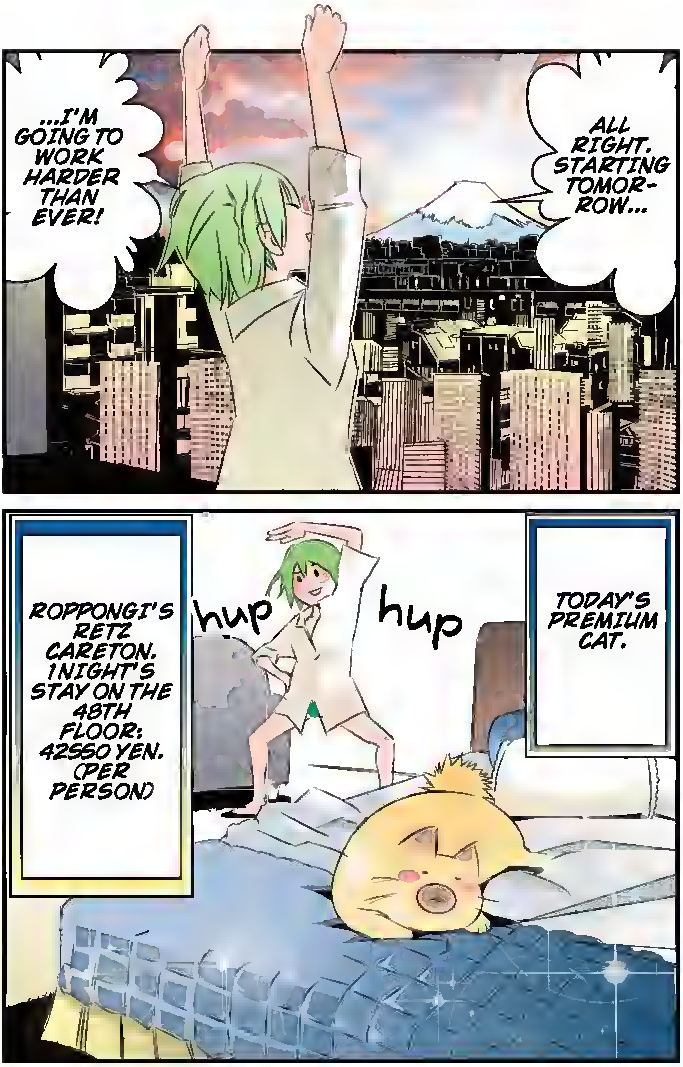

I WON'T WRITE ANY SONGS FOR THE CMO.
BUT I'M GOING TO WRITE ALL-NEW SONGS!


NOW I DON'T REALLY NEED ALL THE SONGS I'VE ALREADY WRITTEN.
ACTUALLY, I'M GLAD I TOOK AN OBJECTIVE LOOK AT IT.


THE NEXT MORN-ING...


KOTORI WOKE EARLY...
...THROUGH FORCE OF HABIT.
fwoop
Hm!!!


WOW!
I CAN SEE MOUNT FUJI!


...I'M GOING TO WORK HARDER THAN EVER!
ALL RIGHT. STARTING TOMOR-ROW...
ROPPONGI'S RETZ CARETON. 1NIGHT'S STAY ON THE 48TH FLOOR: 42550 YEN. (PER PERSON)
hup
hup
TODAY'S PREMIUM CAT.

SHE DESPAIRED... THEN WAS MELANCHOLIC...
BUT NOW, SHE'S BACK TO HER OLD SELF!